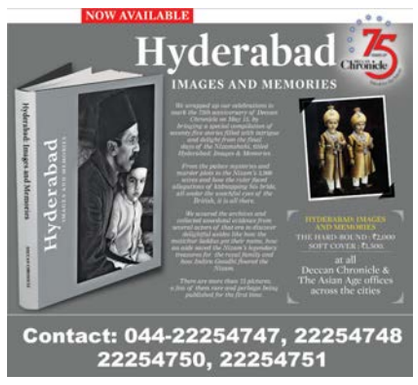


DECCAN Chronicle

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CHENNAI | MONDAY 19 | MARCH 2018



WEATHER

Max: 33°C
Min: 23°C
Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Hevilambi: Panguni 5
Tithi: Thuvithiyai
Star: Revathi
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 pm
Yamagandam: 10.30 am to 12

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.35 am
Zohar: 1.00 pm
Asar: 4.00 pm
Maghrib: 6.25 pm
Isha: 8.00 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.20 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.14 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 7.31 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 8.01 PM

Parrikar likely to return to India next month

Panaji: Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar is "responding positively" to the medical treatment in the US and is expected to return to India in the second week of April, a senior BJP leader said on Sunday.Parrikar had left from Goa for Mumbai in the first week of March. He later went to USA for further treatment of a pancreatic ailment.

UK on high alert against Russian cyber-attack threat

London: Britain's banks, energy and water companies are all said to be on high alert against the threat of a possible Russian cyber-attack amid an escalating diplomatic row between the two countries over the poisoning of a former Russian double agent on British soil. Fears that Moscow could target Britain's critical national infrastructure came as Russia's ambassador to the European Union (EU) suggested a UK research laboratory could be the source of the deadly nerve agent used in the attack on Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia.

NIA claims Zeliang helped fund terror

Guwahati: The National Investigation Agency has stumbled upon documentary evidence, indicating the involvement of former Nagaland chief minister T.R. Zeliang into a terror funding case of Nagaland. Though, Mr Zeliang has refused to appear before the agency to clarify his position, security sources said that former chief minister will have to appear for his cross examination.

COUNTER POINT



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Trump attacks fairness of 'Dem-filled' Mueller team

SPORT 15
Chennaiyin coach Gregory stays on



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ANDHRA PARTIES IN FOCUS

Parliament braces for no-confidence showdown

NITIN MAHAJAN | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

● The YSR Congress claimed that it was forced to move the no confidence motion alleging that the Centre went back on its words of granting Andhra Pradesh special category status

Parliament is bracing for a showdown on Monday as YSR Congress and TDP, backed by the opposition, will move the first no confidence motion against the Narendra Modi's government. Y.V. Subba Reddy of the YSR Congress has written to the Lok Sabha secretariat to put his notice for the motion in the revised list. The TDP has also moved a notice for a no-confidence motion.

A majority of the Opposition parties have taken a view that they will back both the no-confidence motions filed by the YSR Congress Party and the TDP since both are on the same issue. Several parties including the Congress, Trinamul Congress, AIMIM, Biju Janata Dal and Left Front have decided to support the motion of no-trust.

A no-confidence motion notice has to be supported by at least 50 MPs to be taken up in the House.

However, the decision to take up the no confidence motion would be entirely with the Speaker. On Friday the motion could not be taken up as the Speaker Sumitra Mahajan stated that there was no order in the House and adjourned for the day.

With the Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the AIADMK protesting over a host of issues, it remains uncertain if order is restored on Monday.

In case the no confidence motions are moved, the BJP is placed comfortably with 274 members in the House and is unlikely to be defeated.

However, a detailed debate on the motion will allow the Andhra Pradesh parties to raise the issue at length and could pose some embarrassment moments for the ruling alliance.

KCR, Mamata to meet today on strategy

Hyderabad,March 18 : As part of his move to form a non-BJP and non Congress alternative, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is all set to meet his West Bengal counterpart and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Monday.

Rao, president of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), will be accompanied by TRS Parliamentary Party leader and party's secretary-general K. Keshava Rao during his visit, party sources told PTI on Sunday.

After Rao recently proposed formation of a non-Congress and non-BJP front at the national level, ahead of the next year's Lok Sabha polls, Banerjee had spoken to him over phone, extending her support. — *PTI*



SEALING IT WITH A SIX

Dinesh Karthik (right) celebrates after taking India home with a six off the last ball against Bangladesh in the Nidahas T20 series final in Colombo on Sunday. — *AP*

■ Report on P14

In 2019 Mahabharat it's Rahul vs BJP's 'Kauravas'

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

Sounding the bugle for the 2019 "Mahabharat", Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said the war would be between the "Kauravas" (meaning BJP-RSS) and "Pandavas" (Congress). Mr Gandhi said while the Kauravas were hell-bent on fighting for power, the Congress, just like the Pandavas, would fight for the truth. At the same time, moving away from tradition, the Congress president signalled decentralisation of power in the organisation and indicated to senior leaders that they should brace for some tough organisational changes prior to next year's general election.

His concluding remarks on the last day of the Congress plenary session moved between hitting out at the ruling party and government and setting the roadmap for the Congress, which would start with "demolishing the wall" between party workers and leaders.

Cracking the whip, he also asked the leaders and functionaries to stop all factionalism and indicated the party from now on would ensure "strict discipline". He said: "Jaghda karna hain toh election ke baad karo. Abhi kadi discipline chalegi (If you want to fight, do so after the elections. Now strict discipline would be implemented)".

In a tough message to his party, he said there was a need to break the "wall" between ordinary workers and leaders due to which party tickets were given to leaders who "parachute" down and not to workers who have put in 10-15 years of hard work just because they don't have any money to fight the polls. Starting his speech amid a rousing reception from party workers, the Congress president said: "The Kauravas are powerful, arrogant, extremely well organised. The Pandavas are a small army. They were just five brothers who had recently lost everything".

He said just like the Kauravas, the BJP-RSS too just fought for power, and just like Pandavas, the Congress would fight for the truth.

The BJP, he said, was the voice of an organisation, while the Congress was the voice of the nation.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi speaks during the second day of the 84th Plenary Session of Indian National Congress (INC), at the Indira Gandhi stadium in New Delhi on Sunday. — *PTI*

"Like the Kauravas, the BJP and RSS fight for power. Like the Pandavas, the Congress fights for truth. Like Kauravs, BJP is designed to fight for power, but like the Pandavs Congress will fight for the truth

— **RAHUL GANDHI**

"It sounds like a rhetoric of a loser, devoid of substance. A party which questioned the fundamental existence of 'Shri (lord) Ram' today wants to be identified with the 'Pandavas'. It is the party which chooses to mock Hindus and Hindu rituals,"

— **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**

Economy messed up, says former PM

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh launched a scathing attack on the NDA government, accusing it of having "messed up" the economy and mismanaging the dispute in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking at the party plenary, the former Prime Minister said: "The BJP government made tall promises. PM Modi himself said that his government will double farmers' incomes. For that, a growth rate of 12 per cent per annum is necessary, which is unthinkable in the current scenario."



Manmohan Singh

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proclivity for "jumlebaazi" (empty rhetoric), Dr Singh charged that the work done by this government falls short of the claims made by its leaders.

■ More on P6

SASI SPOUSE

Natarajan critical; on ventilator support

Chennai: M. Natarajan, husband of jailed AIADMK leader V.K. Sasikala, is on ventilator support at the ICU of the Gleneagles Global Health City and his condition remains 'critical', doctors attending on him said on Sunday.

■ P4

No need to resign now over CMB: Jayakumar

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

State fisheries minister and AIADMK senior D. Jayakumar has rejected the opposition party DMK's suggestion that AIADMK MPs resign on the Cauvery issue. He said the state government is pressurising the Centre to form the Cauvery Management Board (CMB) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

Refuting an allegation that the ruling AIADMK is going 'soft' on the BJP government at the Centre on the Cauvery issue, Mr Jayakumar said AIADMK party MPs have stalled Parliament proceedings for 10 days and outside the Houses too they had staged agitations.

"Our MPs, Venkatesh Babu and Vijayakumar are here. You can ask them," Mr Jayakumar said on Sunday.

■ Turn to P4



Min mulls proposal to collect passports details of directors

New Delhi, March 18: Ministry of Corporate Affairs is considering a proposal to seek passport details of all individuals, who have permitted to serve as directors on the board of companies in a bid to prevent loan defaulters like Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi leaving the country.

In case, a person with Director Identification Number (DIN) does not have a passport, the ministry plans to obtain a certificate in the form of declaration that the person does not have the passport, sources said. — *PTI*

5 of family killed in Pak shelling

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, MARCH 18

● "All the administrative measures are being taken to reach out to the affected population in the area"

Pakistani troops targeted border villages in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district with mortar bombs on Sunday, killing five members of a family including three minor brothers and injuring five Army personnel and two civilians, officials said.

The Army said the Pakistani troops resorted to "unprovoked" mortar shelling on the Indian forward posts and civilians areas from 7.40 am on Sunday in their latest violation of November 2003 ceasefire understanding. "The Indian troops retaliated to unprovoked Pakistani shelling promptly and effectively," said a defence spokesman.

The officials said mortars fired by the Pakistani troops started raining 0n villages in Balakote sector of Mendhar at 7.40 am. One of the shells landed at the house of one Muhammad Ramzan in Devta village killing the 45-year-old resident, his spouse Malika Bi and three sons - Muhammad Rehman, 19, Muhammad Rizwan, 18, and Muhammad Razaq, 8.

Two of Ramzan's daughters Noorain Akhtar, 14, and Marin Akhtar, 7, who were critically injured in the incident were taken to the hospital in Rajouri where from they were airlifted to government-run Medical College Hospital in Jammu.

■ P7

Sri Lanka ends nationwide state of emergency

Colombo, March 18: Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena on Sunday lifted a nationwide state of emergency imposed on March 6 for the first time since the civil war following days of communal violence between majority Sinhala Buddhists and minority Muslims in the country.

President Sirisena, who returned to Sri Lanka on Saturday night from an official visit to India and Japan, removed the state of emergency as the situation in the country returned to normal.

"Upon assessing the public safety situation, I instructed to revoke the State of Emergency from Saturday midnight," he twitted on Sunday.

The government imposed a state of emergency on March 6 and blocked Facebook, WhatsApp and other social media sites following anti-Muslim violence in the island's central hills Kandy and Ampara districts in which three people were killed and hundreds of Muslim-owned properties, including mosques, were damaged. — *PTI*

Russia gets set for 6 more years of Putin

Moscow, March 18: Russians voted on Sunday in a presidential election set to hand Vladimir Putin a record fourth term, with officials reporting strong turnout but the opposition crying foul.

The Kremlin needs high voter numbers to give greater legitimacy to a new mandate for Putin as Russia faces increasing isolation over a spy poisoning in Britain and a fresh round of US sanctions.

Putin is running against seven other candidates, but his main challenger Alexei Navalny has been barred for legal reasons and the outcome is in little doubt. About 107 million Russians are eligible to cast ballots, but some analysts say that after 18 years of Putin's leadership — both as president and prime minister — fatigue may be setting in.

Turnout was nearly 52 per cent by 1400 GMT, electoral officials said. But Navalny charged that the poll has been staged and voter numbers rigged. Since first being elected president in 2000, Putin has stamped his total authority on the world's biggest country, muzzling opposition, putting television under state control and reasserting Moscow's standing abroad.

The 65-year-old former KGB officer has sought to use the campaign to emphasise Russia's role as a major world power, boasting of its 'invincible' new nuclear weapons in a pre-election speech.

Casting his ballot in Moscow, Putin said he would be pleased with any result giving him the right to continue as president. "I am sure the programme I am offering is the right one," said the man who is already Russia's longest-serving leader since Stalin. — *AFP*

● The Kremlin needs high voter numbers to give greater legitimacy to a new mandate for Putin as Russia faces increasing isolation over a spy poisoning in Britain and a fresh round of US sanctions

■ P10



Presidential candidate Vladimir Putin walks out of a voting booth at a polling station during Russia's presidential election in Moscow on Sunday. — *AFP*

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Minister for School Education K.A. Sengottaiyan says Govt will upgrade 100 high schools into higher secondary schools in the coming academic year

> Centre is moving in the right direction to solve Cauvery water dispute
>
> **— Tamilisai Soundararajan**
>
> **BJP State president**



IN BRIEF

8 boys held for ruckus on train

Chennai: Eight minor boys were arrested by the Tambaram railway police after they created a ruckus onboard the Tiruchy-bound Rockfort express and later hurled stones at the train. Police sources said that the boys, all under 18 years, had boarded the train from Egmore and were planning to get down at Villupuram to attend a friend's wedding. All the boys do odd jobs at various parts of the city, police said. The boys got into the S5 coach and occupied reserved seats of passengers and created a ruckus. When passengers and the TTE attempted to talk to them, they were abusive and when the train reached Pallavaram, they pulled the chain and got down. The boys then hurled stones at the engine and on the compartments, police said. Tambaram Railway police rushed to the scene on information and secured all eight of them. Police booked them under several cases including damage to public property. The eight juveniles were produced before the juvenile justice board and sent to government observation home.

Docs asks for CBI probe in Sathya murder

Chennai: Doctors' Association for Social Equality had demanded CBI probe into the murder of Dr Sathya, who was killed in 2015. "The murder of Dr Sathya, a postgraduate student of Kilpauk Medical College, had shocked the state," said Dr G.R. Ravindranath, general secretary, Doctors' Association for Social Equality said in a statement, on Sunday. Ravindranath also alleged that the state police had failed to identify the actual murderer and conducted a lacklustre investigation. "This is a blot on state police's reputation," he said. Reprimanding government's indifference towards solving the case, DASE demanded the departmental actions against the lethargic police officials. "The court investigation suggests that the police had investigated the case in a motive to close the file. Following the footsteps of other states in enquiring deaths of medicos, TN also acted shoddier," Ravindranath said. He also demanded the state government to order the transfer of the case to CBI. "Government should take necessary steps to nab actual murderer," Ravindranath urged. Dr Sathya was murdered on August 20, 2015, in her apartment at Kilpauk. The police had arrested an engineering student Arindam Debnath, a native of Tripura in connection with the murder. After 3 years of probe, the court had acquitted Arindam Debnath last week. The court had also chastised the police for poor investigation.

Head constable slapped them in public

Cops go to youths' houses to apologise

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

In a deviation from their normal overbearing behaviour, police personnel owned up that they had behaved badly. They went to the homes of a few youngsters in Porur and apologised to them after a video of a cop assaulting them in public went viral.

Police sources said that a few weeks ago, head constable Babu attached to Porur police station, had flagged a two-wheeler when the youngsters were found riding triples and without helmets. The constable, after questioning the boys and learning that they did not possess requisite papers, landed a few slaps on them in full public view. While no complaint was filed against the policeman for his behaviour, the sequence of events was caught on a phone camera and was shared widely in social media.

City Police was condemned for its behaviour as netizens and public are yet to get over the Tiruchy incident wherein a traffic inspector kicked a two-wheeler resulting in the death of a reportedly pregnant woman.

After the video and images went viral, Police Commissioner A.K. Viswanathan ordered an enquiry into the incident, police said. On learning what had transpired, the Commissioner directed the officials in the respective jurisdictions to apologise to the youngsters for mistreating them.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, a team led by Ambattur Deputy Commissioner Sarvesh Raj and Assistant Commissioner Kannan, along with the head constable who attacked the boys reached the home of one the boys in Ramapuram.

On seeing the policemen at their doorsteps, the family was startled. However, the cops explained the background and expressed their apology to the boys.

"The boys said that they were wrong for riding triples and without helmets and they forgot about the incident the same day. They told our men that they saw the incident as an elderly family member chiding them for their misdemeanour," a senior police officer said.

The head constable too apologised to the youngsters after which the DC advised the youngsters on the perils of riding without helmets.



OPERATION DEMOLITION

Demolition of old domestic airport building commenced on Sunday. After its demolition, the old international airport building would also be demolished, said airport officials. — *DC*

College told to pay ₹1.55 lakh to B. Pharm student

A. ARUL PALANI I DC
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Chennai (South) slapped a fine of ₹1.55 lakh on private pharmacy college for admitting a student in B.Pharm course without obtaining necessary approval from Tamil Nadu Dr M.G.R. Medical University, All India Council for Technical Education and Pharmacy Council of India.

In the petition, K. Maragathavalli, Thenthepuperai, Thoothukudi district, submitted that she joined B.Pharm course at Pearl Peace Medical Mission, College of Pharmacy, Pettai, Tirunelveli in the academic year 2000-2001.

The college management informed that it obtained required approval from Tamil Nadu Dr M.G.R. Medical University, AICTE and Pharmacy Council of India. She came to know that University had cancelled its approval for the B-Pharm course for academic years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. Meanwhile, she passed all subjects in the examination conducted by the University.

She said that the University had admitted her without University approval and even conducted an examination. Hence, the act of Varsity and college amounts to deficiency in service and unfair trade practice. She faced mental agony and hardship. Hence, she sought direction to the varsity and the college to pay her compensation of ₹4 lakh.

In its reply, the Registrar, M.G.R. University, stated that the varsity withheld provisional affiliation granted to the college for the year 2001-2002 on the ground of non-approval by AICTE and Pharmacy Council of India. As per the direction of Madras High Court, the varsity recommended other colleges to admit Anitha and five other students, including Maragathavalli, to enable them to complete the course. They were also entitled to claim damages.

Maragathavalli was directed to join K.H. College of Pharmacy, Madurai, in February 2007. She could seek compensation only from college. Hence, the complaint against the University was liable to be dismissed. The college management had not filed a reply and remained absent.

The bench comprising president M. Mony, members K. Amala and Dr T. Paul Rajasekaran, said the university has no role in the admission process.

"This forum is of the view that the college is liable to pay a compensation of ₹1.55 lakh to the girl for causing her mental agony," it said.

Two persons running fake education institute held

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

The City Police on Saturday arrested two persons who were running a fake higher education institute and cheated the gullible public in Kodungaiyur. One of the arrested persons runs a wedding hall. The police said that the duo had set up the fake education institute in the first floor of the wedding hall and that 1,800 bogus SSLC certificates, 200 degree certificates and 25 rubber stamps were recovered from the premises.

The scam came to light after parents of the one of the applicants went to the Kodungaiyur police. In February 2017, S. Gopu (59), a resident of Kondithope had approached the 'institute' after seeing flyers distributed in his neighbourhood.

On reaching the given address in the flyer — Balaji wedding hall in Vivekananda Nagar, Kodungaiyur, — Gopu saw the name board of 'Mahatma Gandhi Board of Open Distance Learning' and approached the front office there. He had enquired about a BA literature course for his daughter to pursue and was told that it would cost him ₹1.5 lakh and at the end of one year, his daughter would get the certificate.

"Gopu was told to pay an initial amount of ₹85,000 and paid the same. Meanwhile, a few months ago, he went to the institute to enquire when the classes would begin when he learnt that he was being duped," an investigating officer said.

Gopu was told that if he pays the remaining amount, they would give him the certificate and it was not necessary to attend any classes. Alarmed over this, Gopu approached the Kodungaiyur police, after which a police team descended on the wedding hall.

The fake educational institute was being run by the owner of the wedding hall, K. Chandrasekhar (48) and P. Alexander (34), a B.Sc graduate. Police seized several fake certificates from the hall. Investigations are underway as to how many persons they had cheated. The duo was produced before a magistrate and remanded in judicial custody.

CUSTOMS SEIZES FOREIGN CURRENCY WORTH ₹1.34 CR

Chennai: The Customs department seized foreign currency worth ₹1.34 crore at the Chennai airport and arrested one person on Sunday.

On a tip off, customs officials kept a special vigil on Dubai bound passengers and flights at international departure terminal. In the morning, one Syed Durabudeen (27) was arrested for carrying foreign currencies of Gulf countries totally worth ₹1.34 crore. Further investigations are on.

—*DC*





LORRY TURNS TURTLE

A truck carrying Toor dal meant for PDS shops in Salem toppled on the Tambaram-Maduravoyal bypass on Sunday. The truck driven by Mayan (23) of Maatuthavani, Maduravoyal, had left the TN civil supplies godown in Red Hills early morning. There were 480 bags of Toor dal, each weighing 50 kgs. Around 9 am, when the truck was moving along the bypass near Irumbuliyur, the front tyre had burst after which the driver lost control of the vehicle, which turned turtle and about 25 sacks fell off the truck onto the Chengalpet-Tambaram road from a height of 20 feet. — *DC*

Goods train derails near Vellore

Chennai: Train traffic between Katpadi and Arakkonam was affected after two wagons of a goods train derailed at Melpakkam yard near Katpadi, on Sunday.

According to a railway press release, the goods train derailed at 9 am on Sunday. Officials restored the track by 11.55 am. Following the accident, movement of trains on the route was rescheduled.

The KSR Bengaluru Express, Coimbatore Intercity Express, Hubbali Weekly Express, Thiruvananthapuram Weekly, KSR Bengaluru Lalbagh Express, Allapuzha Express, all departing from Chennai Central, were rescheduled, the release said.

—*DC*

680 kg rotten beef from Andhra seized

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

Railway Protection Force personnel had found 8 boxes during regular checking and alerted Chennai Corporation officials and food safety officials after they experienced foul smell emanating from the boxes. The boxes had been brought on the Circar Express. They were addressed to Sakthivel. He is the person from whose shed last week 600kg unhygienic beef was seized.

Days after seizing 1,100 kg of unhygienic beef at two locations in the city, the food safety officers and Greater Chennai Corporation officials seized 680 kg of rotten beef from Egmore railway station, on Sunday.

Railway Protection Force personnel had found 8 boxes during regular checking and alerted Chennai Corporation officials and food safety officials after they experienced foul smell emanating from the boxes. The boxes had been brought on the Circar Express.

Upon reaching the Egmore railway station, food safety officer Muthukrishnan, additional city health officer Dr Rajkumar and sanitary officer Vasudevan seized and opened the boxes to find rotten beef. The boxes contained 680 kg meat, officials said.

After the veterinary doctors certified the beef was unfit for human consumption, Chennai Corporation officials destroyed the rotten beef in Kodungaiyur dump yard.

"The meat had been sent from Gudivada in Andhra Pradesh. We have also requested the officials of Gudivada to check the practice of sending meat to Chennai," the officials said.

The officials also said that the boxes were addressed to Sakthivel. "Last week we had seized 600 kg of unhygienic beef from Sakthivel's shed and filed a police complaint. He got bail and is continuing the practice," officials alleged.

It may be recalled that the Chennai Corporation officials had seized 600 kg and 500 kg of unhygienic beef on March 10 and 11 respectively.

According to the Public Health Act, meat sellers should obtain certificates before slaughtering animals and sending meat to other places. "After arriving at the intended destination, sellers should get certificates from the local authority," the officials explained.

It is also learnt that one kilogram of beef is sold at around ₹220 in Chennai. "Meat smugglers would get beef at ₹80 per kg from other states. However, quality of the meat is a major concern," officials added.





PMK MP Dr Anbumani Ramadoss says the Centre must withdraw move to lay Gail pipeline in delta region

DMK Working President MK Stalin cannot deceive people



—Dindigul C. Sreenivasan Minister for Forests

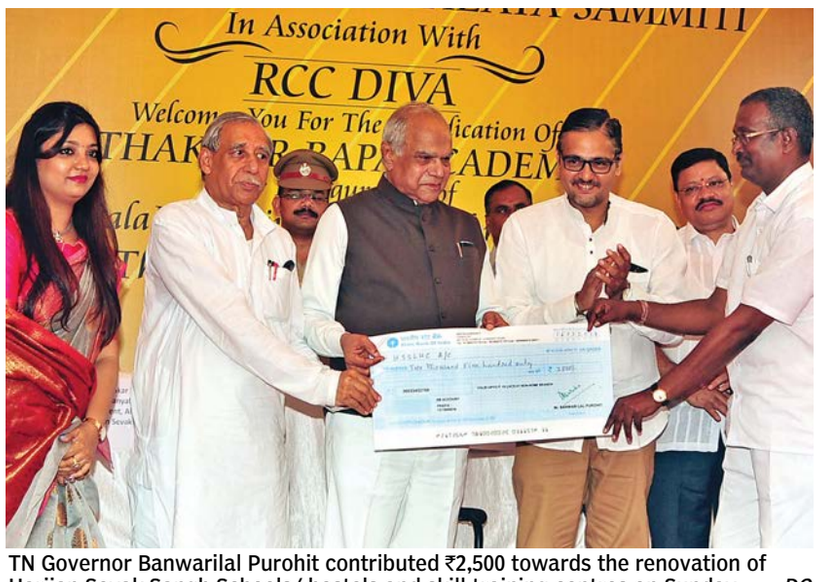
SHORT TAKES

CM greets Guv on Gudi Padwa

Chennai: Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday extended his greetings to Governor Banwarilal Purohit on the occasion of Gudi Padwa. The festival coincides with the Ugadi. The Chief Minister sent a greeting letter along with a bouquet of flowers to the Governor.

MK at Arivalayam after 3 months

Chennai: The DMK President M Karunanidhi on visited Anna Arivalayam - the party headquarters -- for the second time in three months. Karunanidhi's sudden visit to Anna Arivalayam - his favourite place where he used to spend a major portion of his time a day - has not just infused cheer among the DMK cadre but has also sent out a message that his health was getting better. Karunanidhi had visited Arivalayam in December after a gap of more than a year. On Sunday, he spent more than 20 minutes at his room in the DMK headquarters. The former chief minister's vehicle, which is customised to accommodate his wheelchair, arrived at the Anna Arivalayam on the arterial Anna Salai at around 8 pm on Sunday. DMK cadres emphatically shouted slogans and affectionately called him "Thalaivar."



TN Governor Banwarilal Purohit contributed ₹2,500 towards the renovation of Harijan Sevak Sangh Schools/ hostels and skill training centres on Sunday. —DC

Guv donates to renovate Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Sunday led the philanthropists helping to renovate the cyclone-ravaged Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya here by making a personal contribution of ₹2,500 towards building of one sq ft and made a fervent appeal to the public that at least 51,000 donors should each come forward with similar contributions for revamping this Harijan Sevak Sangh hostel, school and skill-training centre.

His is not just a token contribution but an "emotional attachment" to the peaceful Gandhian movement that strived for the uplift of the downtrodden, the Governor said while appealing to the corporate and philanthropic institutions to support the 80-year-old Harijan Sevak Sangh founded by Mahatma Gandhi.

The Governor spoke at the function where the RCC DIVA family club, managed by the women in the Rajasthan Cosmo Club, launched efforts towards renovating the structures and creating additional infrastructure for the school children at Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, which was badly hit by the 2015 floods and again by a cyclone the following year.

Stressing the importance of education for building up a nation that is "strong, economically prosperous, culturally vibrant and socially united", Governor Banwarilal said the ideals inculcated in schools remain with a person through life, enabling to charge out the best path for the family, society and the nation. "Education is the basic requirement for a person to make himself economically and socially useful to society. Education brings out the best skills available within a person, hones them and enables him to achieve perfection in the field of his aptitude. It moulds his personality and gives him an identity", the Governor said and quoted Swami Vivekananda — 'Education is not being but becoming'.

PLANS TO ISSUE SMART CARDS TO PARTY MEMBERS

AIADMK membership drive to round off by March end

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

The ruling AIADMK, which has embarked on a massive membership enrolment drive, has plans to complete the exercise by this month-end. Party's coordinator O. Panneerselvam and joint coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami, have set March 31 as deadline for the party functionaries to submit the filled-in forms.

"Applications for renewal of membership and enrolment of new members are being issued at the AIADMK headquarters from January 29. The filled forms are also being received at the head office and the members are urged to utilise the opportunity to renew their membership and also enrol new members," party release said

Along with the application fee, the properly filled forms should be submitted at the party headquarters before March 31 and acknowledgments will be given, Mr. Edappadi Palaniswami, Chief Minister and O. Panneerselvam, Deputy CM, said.

The two leaders who are heading the unified AIADMK following the demise of Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa, had called for the membership drive of the party. They said as per the rules of the AIADMK, intra-party polls should be conducted once in every five years.

According to sources, it has been planned to issue digital cards (smart cards) to the party members. The digital card will contain particulars about the card-holder, his party post, native place, etc., However, a final decision is yet to be taken.

During the AIADMK district secretaries meet recently, both the leaders suggested that duplication of membership should be done away with and the application of such members should be rejected. The meeting also discussed strategies for ensuring a massive victory in the ensuing elections to local bodies and cooperative bodies, too.

Membership drive should be conducted and completed before the organisational elections
—Edappadi K. Palaniswami

PARTY WILL DECIDE ON NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

Chennai: To a question on the DMK's appeal to the TN government to support the TDP's no-confidence motion against the Centre, Mr. Jayakumar replied, "it is a policy decision of the party. This will be decided at an appropriate time."

Also, the Minister justified the sacking of party's spokesperson K. C. Palanisamy for urging the party to back a no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government if it did not take a favourable stand on the Cauvery issue.

"What he (K.C. Palanisamy) said was wrong. Had he apologised, then the party would have considered revoking his expulsion.

The AIADMK's general council is all powerful and the party's coordinator and joint coordinator (Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam and Chief Minister K. Palaniswami, respectively) have been empowered to decide. Palanisamy failed to understand that there is a hierarchy and discipline to be followed in the party," Mr Jayakumar said.

15-DAYS LEFT FOR DEADLINE SET BY CENTRE, SAYS MIN

FROM PAGE 1

In an informal chat with reporters after he inaugurated the distribution of welfare aid commemorating the birth anniversary of late CM J. Jayalalithaa at Otteri, he said in the history of struggle demanding justice for Tamil Nadu on the Cauvery issue, it was the AIADMK that had been striving hard to protect the state's interest.

"DMK which was in power for 17 years did precious little to resolve the issue... The Supreme Court has clearly stipulated six-week deadline. So, there is still a fortnight left," the Minister said while exuding confidence that the Centre would form the CMB. Asked what the State government would do if the Centre fails to implement the apex court verdict, Mr Jayakumar replied, "Be positive. We should have faith...we will demand CMB even if we are woken up from sleep. We will say only this always... CMB is bound to be constituted."

Writers cry foul over delay in e-registration

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

Citing slow server speeds and sporadic technical glitches in new online property registration, document writers in the state have announced they would be protesting in Chennai on Monday.

According to document writers who assist property owners with drafting documents, the new online software has 48 columns to fill and makes property registration difficult and time-consuming. "The department server is very slow and it takes nearly 2 hours to upload a document to the server. If the server crashes, we would have to fill the columns from the beginning all over again," G. Kannan, general secretary, Tamil Nadu document and copywriters association, said.

Kannan also alleged the department has been misguiding the public by saying document registration would take only 10 minutes and there is no need to visit sub-registrar offices often. "In reality, the process would take hours. The department also allowed browsing centre owners to upload documents. If a single letter misplaced in the document, it will result in serious ramifications and civil cases," he added.

Kannan also said that the association is set to stage a protest in Chennai demanding options for usage of both new (Star 2.0) and old (star 1.0) versions of registration software. "Star 1.0 was easy to use and takes less time. The department should allow users to use both versions.

Meanwhile, J. Kumaragurubaran, inspector general of registration, had directed sub-registrars to provide written acknowledgement in case of failing to register the document owing to lack of original proofs. "Sub-registrar should not reject the registration orally," Kumaragurubaran said in a circular.

The circular also gives 3 days to sub-registrars for verification of the draft document uploaded by the public. "In case the applicant had provided wrong information regarding village, survey number and area, sub-registrars should return the document. Other than that, the officers can correct simple details themselves according to the draft document," Kumaragurubaran said.

The department had registered as many as 1,87,645 documents online after the digital roll out on February 12.

Centre will form CMB, says Tamilisai

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

Asserting that the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre will constitute the Cauvery Management Board (CMB) and will never give up the rights of Tamil Nadu on the issue, BJP State president Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan has accused the political parties in the State of enacting a farce on Cauvery issue.

Taking strong exception to the opposition parties for flaying the Centre for not setting up the CMB, she said "M. K. Stalin (DMK working president) and T. T. V. Dhinakaran (R.K. Nagar legislator and AMMK leader) are behaving as if they are new to politics. The Cauvery issue is not a latest issue. All the political parties are enacting a farce on the issue and are trying to gain political mileage."

Speaking to reporters here on Sunday she said there is no need for the Tamil Nadu MPs to resign on the Cauvery issue as the Centre would implement the Supreme Court order. "Also, the situation does not warrant the moving of no confidence motion against the Central government. Centre has been consistently saying that it would not compromise on TN interests. On behalf of the state unit we have strongly emphasised the need for setting up CMB. The opposition parties are talking as if the BJP has no concern. What did the DMK and Congress do to resolve the Cauvery issue, when they were in power," she asked.

BJP STATE PREZ: STALIN IS STILL CONFUSED OVER DRAVIDANADU

Chennai: Dr. Tamilisai claimed that Mr. Stalin is in a state of confusion on the Dravidanadu issue. "This will only lead Dravida Kazhagam to a worst situation. He bats for Dravidanadu but is vague on the concept," she said.

The BJP chief said the conducive situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu where all political parties are in disarray, would pave way for her party to come to power. "As far as I am concerned, only the BJP can ensure clarity in thinking among the people and bring about political change," Dr. Tamilisai added.



National spokesperson of Congress party Khushbu takes a selfie at the Congress plenary session held in New Delhi on Sunday. —DC

WORK AND FUN

Natarajan critical, on ventilator support

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

SASIKALA SEEKS PAROLE

Jailed AIADMK leader V K Sasikala will move an application before the Parapana Prison authorities on Monday seeking parole to visit her critically-ill husband, M Natarajan

Natarajan, husband of jailed AIADMK leader V K Sasikala, is on ventilator support at the ICU of the Gleneagles Global Health City and his condition remains "critical", doctors attending on him said on Sunday.

Natarajan (74), who underwent kidney and liver transplant in October last year following failure of both organs, was rushed to the hospital on the IT corridor on Friday evening. Doctors said Natarajan's condition continues to be critical since his admission on Friday and all necessary treatment is being given to him. "Mr Natarajan Maruthappa has been admitted in the Intensive Care Unit, Gleneagles Global Hospital on 16th March, 2018 with severe chest infection. He is on ventilator support and his condition is critical," Shanmuga Priyan, Chief Operating Officer, Gleneagles Global Health City, said in a statement here on Sunday. An informed source said Natarajan had suffered rejection of his grafted liver and also suffered kidney dysfunction last month, followed by "disseminated fungal infection related to multiple organ failure". The hospital is doing its best in the given circumstances, said the source requesting anonymity.

Since Natarajan's condition is critical, Sasikala's loyalist Pugazhendi said an application seeking parole for her would be moved before the authorities concerned on Monday morning to enable her to visit her husband at the hospital.

Sources also said Dhinakaran, who is Natarajan's nephew and deputy general secretary of newly-formed Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam, has cancelled all his programmes to be with his uncle.

His wife Sasikala had visited him at the hospital in October when he underwent surgeries following her release on parole.

Why mixing science and religion was a strict no-no for Hawking

M. R. VENKATESH | DC
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

REFLECTIONS ON POLITICAL TRENDS

One steps into an ATM and begins to key in data on the touch-screen to draw cash. Many a time there is a lull, a full stop. Perhaps even a normal person's fingers do not match the speed of some fine imperceptible signals that move around a vast computer network to deliver cash. A smiling silhouette on the touch-screen beams back: 'You are timed out. Try again'.

Again consider this typical everyday life situation: Sitting in a stationary train compartment, as another train zooms past, the seated passenger in the first train also feels he/she is moving. One feels 'spaced out' there briefly. The apparent motion one experienced is from the framework of the moving train, an example that Bertrand Russell used to explain 'ABC' of Albert Einstein's Relativity theory.

Scientists still continue to tell us that Newton's 'Laws of Motion' still hold for most practical purposes. Yet, after Einstein's Special and General Theory of Relativity, the earlier rigid separation between 'space' and 'time' that Newtonian mechanics presupposed was demolished. Rather space-time as a rattling fusion is the 'fourth dimension' of objects in space. Matter is no longer absolute, it is something that hangs around as events in bits and chunks under 'space-time curvatures'.

In those momentous decades when Physics aided by Mathematics became the paradigm of scientific knowledge and the base for man's quest for understanding the nature of the universe and how it all began, equally revolutionary was the famous Heisenberg's 'Uncertainty Principle', pertaining to the behaviour of very small, sub-atomic particles, challenging received notions. The 'Uncertainty principle' that "we can never know precisely both the position of a particle and its velocity (speed and direction) at the same time", brought to light how rapturous and discontinuous the sub-atomic world could be. Heisenberg's picture of the building blocks radically discounted 'solid matter'. The 'table' that one sees and feels as something stable over a period of time to write upon or place cooked food, is perhaps nothing solid, but a rapturous dance of God knows what!

So how does Stephen Hawking, hailed as perhaps the greatest physicist since Einstein and a cosmologist – though he won no Nobel prize- who passed away at the age of 76 in his Cambridge home last week come into the picture? Kitty Ferguson, in her brilliant book on 'Stephen Hawking –Quest For A Theory of Everything', a fascinating account of his life and work, which was all the more a saga of courage and determination with the help of his wife Jane, since the onset of motor neurone disease that almost paralysed Hawking, tells us that much of the work of physicists in the last century "has been aimed at learning more about how the four forces of Nature – gravity, electromagnetic force, the third, a 'message service', the 'strong (nuclear) force' that binds the atoms together in the nucleus, and the fourth termed 'weak force' that causes radioactivity- operate and how they are related."



To find a single unified theory that explained all these four forces became the key research paradigm in theoretical physics, when Stephen Hawking stormed the scene to ask whether theoretical physics has a future at all. "We should point out that some theories including most of Stephen Hawking's are impossible to test with our present technology," says Kitty. For example, "we cannot observe the universe in its earliest stages to find out directly whether his theory that the universe is unbound (no-boundary proposal) is correct," she points out.

Yet Stephen Hawking's quest for a "Theory of Everything"- though much of his early work was enriching man's understanding of 'black holes', influenced by British mathematician and Physicist Roger Penrose's theory concerning, "what happens when a star has no nuclear fuel left to burn and collapses under the force of its own gravity", which in turn was built on earlier work by astro-physicists like Subramanyan Chandrasekhar and John A Wheeler, had to face several challenges. "It must solve the enigma of combining Einstein's theory of general relativity (a theory we use to explain gravity) with quantum mechanics (the theory we use when talking about the other three forces). This is the challenge that Stephen Hawking has taken up," explains Kitty in her work.

If the collapse of a star is in no way smooth at all, and the star eventually crushed to a "tiny point of infinite density and infinite curvature of space-time, a 'singularity at the heart of a black hole', as Hawking's predecessors envisaged, Kitty says Stephen took off from there to hold that the converse is equally possible, by "reversing the direction of time".

From a "tiny, dimensionless point we call the Big Bang", an unimaginably dense one-point mass must have "exploded and kept expanding" until the universe "looks the way it does today".

It was "with these questions, Hawking began his intellectual adventure that has continued for more than 25 years," says Kitty, adding, he thought that after all those years of struggle, at last he found a topic of research "when he applied for a research fellowship at one of colleges that make up Cambridge University."

In that grim intellectual journey, Hawking like any good scientist has modified his earlier positions.

Later, even when he mooted 'superstring theory' to explain tiny string blocks of the universe, he never mixed science with mysticism or religion.

If somebody did find the 'Theory of Everything', Kitty says, for Stephen Hawking doing physics after that "would be like mountaineering after Mount Everest has been conquered." But still such a unified theory, even if it tells us how the universe works and "why the way it is the way it is", would still not explain "why the universe exists at all", points out Kitty quoting Hawking extensively.

Elsewhere, Hawking says an 'observer-dependent universe' does not make physics one with 'Eastern mysticism', like Hinduism or Buddhism.

One would not be doing physics at all then, he shot back, for theories in science are never the last word, even as he affirmed that 'black holes' may ensure the universe is not totally 'deterministic' either.

There is still room for belief in God and human freedom. "God still has a few tricks up his sleeve," Hawking reportedly quipped while closing a lecture in 1996, says Kitty. It was thus the great Stephen Hawking kept the 'Lakshman Rekha' between science and religion intact till his last breath.



Minister for Milk and Dairy Development, K.T. Rajenthra Bhalaji says Kamal Haasan's dream of capturing power in the State will remain only a mirage

DISREGARD FOR SAFETY DISTINCTLY INDIAN PHENOMENON

R. Mohan

Namma Chennai diary



Indians care a fig for safety. And then there is the all-pervasive Indian fatalism. If it was bound to happen, it will. Soon after every major tragedy we slip back to a lackadaisical status quo and matters like safety slip to the backburner. There is no concept of safety of the community or a group of persons in any activity - be it boarding a bus for the daily commute or paragliding along the coast of trekking in the forest.

It is remarkable how all of India wakes up in the aftermath of a tragedy, whether it is a boat or ferry ride without life jackets or a temple festival without adequate safeguards for the crowds expected. There will be a lot of fulmination, inquires ordered, compensation declared and then everyone moves on until the next big tragedy befalls us. The national inaction in matters of safety is a peculiar Indian phenomenon.

It's not as if a few lakh rupees awarded can ever adequately compensate for a young life nipped in the bud. The pity is a little forethought on safety could have stemmed the disaster of the loss of life. But then there is a third important factor in all this and that is to do with a total nation disregard for any rules and regulations. Tell an Indian he is not allowed to ride without a helmet and he will defiantly say it is his head.

This cavalier disdain for laws, rules and regulations is unmatched even in other countries in the region which may be uniformly underdeveloped. If no trekking allowed in a reserve forest, an Indian will be the first to put up his hand to defy the rule. There is another root cause for this - corruption. Grease a few palms and any rule or regulation can be bent. This is another phenomenon in which India is a regional and, possibly, world leader. The ease of graft further facilitates this contempt for rules.

A misadventure can come about at any time. A missed step is probably enough to cause physical hurt to a person while walking on the pavement. Consider a whole load of tourists caught in a forest fire in the dry season when any forest is one big tinder box waiting to catch fire from a triangulation of factors - dry wood, plenty of oxygen and a harsh summer sun - and you realise how foolish they have been. And worse, they did not have seem to have adequate briefing on what to do after smelling or seeing a forest fire.

A clever Indian shortcut or detour was all they seemed to adapt when faced with a conflagration that can consume everything in its path. Whoever thought of going downhill against a fire that was whipping upwards with the wind must be given an ignoble prize.

The group may have had no briefing on what to do in the face of possible hazards inside a forest, with fires and wild animals posing imponderable challenges. Trekking is fun provided adequate precautions are taken and you go with experienced hands. The trekking clubs have probably not heard of walkie-talkies either.

Boating is fun too and there again safety must be considered before embarking. We were once stuck in a situation in an island off the coast of Kota Kinabalu in a building storm and with an injured guide who had to be taken back to shore. How the Malaysians responded to the emergency was amazing. The walkie-talkies buzzed back and forth and the most experienced captain of the boats was summoned to the pier where we were waiting. And the captain bravely took us into the storm in the best available boat, up and down in the strong waves, with just the one aim of getting us to shore as quickly as possible so the injured could be rushed to the hospital.

It is not as if Indians cannot afford the paraphernalia associated with the pastimes and adventures. Just that they won't spend on safety, it's not in their DNA either to think of safety, be it the seat belt or the helmet in the most mundane of activities. Catch them then investing in safety equipment like life jackets. You get into a dhow in Dubai or a ferry to cross over to Deira from Bur Dubai and the first thing they hand you is a life jacket. Safety of people is paramount in the thinking of many societies.

Quiz ourselves on our reluctance to pay for safety and the answer would be life is cheap in India, more than a billion around. Above all is the sense of Indian fatalism, a kind of eastern philosophy. So, let us just simmer down and wait for our anger to rise again on the next tragedy.

(R. Mohan is the Resident Editor of the Chennai and Tamil Nadu editions of Deccan Chronicle)



Container lorry operators to go on strike from today

K V NAVYA | DC
CHENNAI, MARCH 18



For representational purpose only

Nearly 7,000 container lorries would stay off roads from Monday as a section of container lorry operators serving the Chennai port have announced an indefinite strike.Their demands include checking of irregularities in the release of payments against the backdrop of mounting diesel prices and the National Association of Container Freight Stations (NACFS) taking up transportation and leaving no business for trailer operators.

"In 2010, the then existing 13 NACFS had asked for 20 vehicles to help internal transit (embark and disembark containers inside the yard) at Container Freight Stations, in addition to the 10 lorries they possessed. But, gradually they started taking up export and import work leaving us with nothing," said S. Padmanabhan from the trailer owners association. He added that the number of NACFS increased to 32 from 13 and of those 32 stations, at least 24 have 150 vehicles each now.

Moreover, in the yard, goods can be stocked free of cost only for three days after which the Port Trust levies demurrage charges. Cashing in on this, the associations started providing CFS for stocking the goods at a lesser price. While stocking, they would talk to the consumer about their services, which also included Customs clearing, allege trailer operators.

The container lorry owners are asking for a 20 per cent rise in their charges. They say a fixed rate was decided back in 2014 considering the operational costs then. The prices of diesel and tyres have shot up since then and insurance would go up by ₹12,000 per container from next month. Adding to their woes, money is released after a delay of at least six months. Also, vehicles are made to wait for days at the port.

Despite raising the issues several times, the problem of overloading still persists. Trailer operators allege that the CFS bribe regional transport officers to carry double containers instead of one.

The strike would hit the movement of cargo and result in a loss of an estimated ₹50 crore, a day.

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HAL

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Our Company was incorporated on August 16, 1963 as Aeronautics India Limited, a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956. Subsequently, Hindustan Aircraft Limited, a company incorporated on December 23, 1940 under the Companies Act, 1913 was merged with our Company, pursuant to the Aircraft Companies Amalgamation Order dated September 28, 1964 passed by the Company Law Board. The name of our Company was changed to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, by a certificate of change of name issued by the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra dated December 5, 1964 with effect from October 1, 1964. The status of our Company was changed to public company by a special resolution of the members of our Company passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on July 10, 1995. For further details relating to incorporation, corporate structure, change in registered office of our Company, please refer to the chapter *"History and Certain Corporate Matters"* beginning on page 171 of the RHP.

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Company Secretary and Compliance Officer: Mr. G. V. Sesha Reddy, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **Tel No:** +91 (80) 2232 0001; **Fax No:** +91 (80) 2232 0758
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PROMOTER OF OUR COMPANY: THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF 34,107,525 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDER"), FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●]* PER EQUITY SHARE (THE "OFFER PRICE"), AGGREGATING TO ₹ [●] MILLION (THE "OFFER") COMPRISING OF A NET OFFER OF 33,438,750 EQUITY SHARES. THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE 10.20% AND 10% RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UPTO 668,775 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING TO ₹ [•] MILLION FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION "). THE OFFER LESS EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS REFEREED TO AS THE NET OFFER.

*RETAIL DISCOUNT OF ₹25 PER EQUITY SHARE TO THE OFFER PRICE SHALL BE OFFERED TO THE RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS AND EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT OF ₹ 25 PER EQUITY SHARE TO THE OFFER PRICE WILL BE OFFERED TO THE ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION.

Price Band: ₹ 1,215 to ₹ 1,240 per Equity Share of Face Value of ₹ 10 each.
The Floor Price is 121.5 times the Face Value and the Cap Price is 124 times the Face Value.
Bids can be made for a minimum of 12 Equity Shares and in multiples of 12 Equity Shares thereafter.

RISKS TO INVESTORS

(i) The two Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Issue have handled 44 public issues in the past 3 years, out of which 14 issues closed below the issue/offer price on listing date.
(ii) There are no listed companies in India that engage in a business similar to that of the Company. Hence, industry comparison in relation to the Company is not applicable.
(iii) The average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares by our Promoter is ₹ (152) per Equity Share (after considering the impact of buy-back of Equity Shares in March, 2016 and November, 2017). The Offer Price at the upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 1,240 per Equity Share.

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ASBA* | Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application - Make use of it!!! | Mandatory in public issue from January 1, 2016. No cheque will be accepted. | *Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account, investors can avail the same. For further details, check section on ASBA below.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/ Offer Period shall be extended for at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the total Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band, and the revised Bid/ Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges by issuing a press release and also by indicating the change on the websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Member.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b)(iii) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended (**"SCRR"**), wherein at least 10% of the post-Offer paid-up Equity Share capital of our Company will be offered to the public. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 26(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2009, as amended (**"SEBI ICDR Regulations"**), wherein 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers (**"QIB Portion"**). Such number of Offered Shares (defined below) representing 5% of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only. The remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the QIB Portion, the balance Offered Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. Further, upto 668,775 additional Equity Shares shall be offered for allocation and Allotment on a proportionate basis to the Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion, conditional upon valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders shall participate in the Offer mandatorily through the Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (**"ASBA"**) process by providing the details of their respective ASBA Accounts in which the corresponding Bid Amount will be blocked by the SCSBs. For details, see *"Offer Procedure"* on page 705 of the RHP.

Bidders should note that on the basis of PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders' sole risk. Bidders should ensure that PAN, DP ID and the Client ID are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The PAN, DP ID and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the PAN, DP ID and Client ID available in the depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected.

Contents of the Memorandum of the Company as regards its Objects: For information on the main objects and other objects of our Company, see *"History and Certain Corporate Matters"* on page171 of the RHP and Clause III of the Memorandum of Association of the Company. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see *"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"* on page 796 of the RHP.

Liability of the members of the Company: Limited by shares.

Amount of share capital of the Company and Capital Structure: The authorised, issued, subscribed and paid up share capital of our Company as on the date of the RHP is as follows: The authorised Equity Share capital of our Company is ₹ 6,000,000,000 divided into 600,000,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 10 each, The issued, subscribed and paid up capital of our Company is ₹ 3,343,875,000 divided into 334,387,500 Equity Shares. For further details, see *"Capital Structure"* on page 97 of the RHP.

Names of signatories to the Memorandum of Association of the Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them: Given below are the names of the signatories of the Memorandum of Association of our Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them at the time of signing of the Memorandum of Association of our Company: 1. President of India through (A. N. Jha), Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence - 6 shares, 2. Dr. S. Bhagavantam, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister - 1 share, 3. Shri. M. K. Hariharan, Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance (Defence) - 1 share, 4. Shri. K. P. K. Menon, Joint Secretary (Production), Ministry of Defence - 1 share, 5. Shri. S. P. Mukerji, Deputy Secretary (Production), Ministry of Defence - 1 share, and 6. Shri. P. K. Basu, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Defence - 1 share, aggregating 11 Equity Shares.

Listing: The Offered Shares are proposed to be listed on BSE and NSE. Our Company has received in-principle approvals from BSE and NSE for listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their letters dated October 10, 2017 and October 9, 2017, respectively. For the purposes of this Offer, BSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. A signed copy of the Red Herring Prospectus and the Prospectus shall be delivered for registration to the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, Bengaluru. (**"RoC"**) in accordance with Section 26(4) of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents which shall be available for inspection from the date of registration of this Red Herring Prospectus with the RoC, until the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, see *"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"* on page796 of the RHP.

Disclaimer Clause of the SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 682 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of SEBI.

Disclaimer Clause of the BSE (the Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 686 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of the BSE.

Disclaimer Clause of the NSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the offer document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 687 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of NSE.

General Risks: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in this Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in this Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and this Offer, including the risks involved. The Offered Shares have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the investors is invited to *"Risk Factors"* on page 14 of the RHP.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS		REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER
SBI Capital Markets Limited 202, Maker Tower 'E', Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400 005 **Tel:** +91 (22) 22178300, **Fax:** +91 (22) 22188332 **E-mail:** hal.ipo@sbicaps.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** investor.relations@sbicaps.com **Website:** www.sbicaps.com **Contact Person:** Mr. Sandeep Tenneti/ Mr. Gitesh Vargantwar **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000003531	**Axis Capital Limited** 1st floor, Axis House, C-2 Wadia International Centre, P.B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai 400 025 **Tel:** +91 (22) 4325 2183, **Fax:** +91 (22) 4325 3000 **E-mail:** halipo@axiscap.in **Investor grievance e-mail:** complaints@axiscap.in **Website:** www.axiscapital.co.in **Contact Person:** Ms. Simran Gadh **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000012029	**Karvy Computershare Private Limited** Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda Hyderabad, Telangana 500 032, India **Tel:** +91 (40) 6716 2222, **Fax:** +91 (40) 2343 1551 **Email:** hal.ipo@karvy.com **Investor Grievance Email:** einward.ris@karvy.com **Website:** https://karisma.karvy.com **Contact Person:** Mr. M Murali Krishna **SEBI Registration No:** INR000000221

All grievances may be addressed to the Registrar to the Offer with a copy to the relevant Designated Intermediary with whom the Bid cum Application Form was submitted. The Bidder should give full details such as name of the sole or first Bidder, Bid cum Application Form number, Bidder's DP ID, Client ID, PAN, date of submission of the Bid cum Application Form, address of the Bidder, number of the Equity Shares applied for and the name and address of the Designated Intermediary where the Bid cum Application Form was submitted by the Bidder. Investors can contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related problems such as non-receipt of letter of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund intimations and non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

Availability of RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP, and the *"Risk Factors"*, beginning on page 14 of the RHP therein, before applying in the Offer. Full copy of the RHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers (BRLMs) and the Stock Exchanges at www.sbicaps.com, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively.

Availability of Bid-cum-Application Forms: Bid-cum-Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of our Company, **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Tel No:** +91 (80) 2232 0001, **Fax No:** +91 (80) 2232 0758, the BRLMs: **SBI Capital Markets Limited, Tel:** +91 (22) 22178300, **Fax:** +91 (22) 22188332, **Axis Capital Limited, Tel:** +91 (22) 4325 2183, **Fax:** +91 (22) 4325 3000, **Syndicate Member: SBICAP Securities Limited, Tel:** +91 (022) 4227 3300 and at selected location of the sub-syndicate members (as given below), Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. Bid-cum-Application Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-Syndicate Members: Axis Securities Limited, Ajcon Global Services Limited, Almondz Global Securities Limited, Amit Jasani Financial Services Pvt Limited, Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Limited, Anand Share Consultancy, Anil Dhulia, ANS Pvt Limited, Ashika Stock Broking Limited, Ashwani Dandia & Co, Dalal & Broacha Stock, Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Limited, G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited, Guiness Securities Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, India Infoline Limited, Indiabull Ventures Limited, Inventure Growth & Securities Limited, Jhaveri Securities, JM Financial Services Limited, Kalpataru Multiplier Limited, Kamlesh D Joshi, Karvy Stock Broking Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, Kotak Securities Limited, Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Marwadi Shares & Finance, Motilal Oswal Securities, MSM Enterprise, Mudra Om Securities Pvt Limited, Mukesh D Joshi, Ohm Securities Limited, Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Limited, Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, PRL Stock & Share Brokers Pvt Limited, Reliance Securities Limited, Religare Securities Limited, RR Equity Brokers Pvt Limited, Safal Capital India Limited, Sharekhan Limited, SMC Global Securities Limited, Standard Chartered Securities (I) Limited, Tanna Financial Services , VCK Share & Stock Broking Services Limited, VSE Stock Services Limited, Way2wealth Brokers Pvt Limited.

Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA): All the investors have to compulsorily apply through ASBA only. For details on the ASBA process, please refer to the details given in the ASBA Forms and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section **"Offer Procedure"** on the page 705 of the RHP. ASBA Forms can also be downloaded from the websites of BSE and NSE. ASBA Forms can be obtained from the list of banks that is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. ASBA Forms can be obtained from Members of the Syndicate, SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs, the list of which is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in.

Bankers to the Offer and Refund Banks: State Bank of India and HDFC Bank Limited

All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

Date: March 16, 2018
Place: Bengaluru

For **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**
On behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is proposing, subject to statutory and regulatory requirements, market conditions and other considerations, an initial public offering of its equity shares and has filed a Red Herring Prospectus dated March 7, 2018 ("RHP") with the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka at Bengaluru on March 7, 2018. The RHP will be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, BSE at www.bseindia.com, NSE at www.nseindia.com and the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers at www.sbicaps.com and www.axiscapital.co.in. Any potential investor should note that investment in Equity Shares involves a high degree of risk. For details, potential investors should refer to the section titled *"Risk Factors"* in the RHP. Investors should not refer to the draft red herring prospectus filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") and may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons (as defined in Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act ("Regulation S") except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. No public offering of securities is contemplated in the United States or any other jurisdiction outside India.

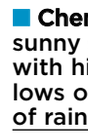
In view of national security related concerns, certain material information in relation to our business and operations has been classified as 'confidential' by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India (the "MoD") and us. As a result, we have not (i) disclosed such information in the RHP; or (ii) provided such information to the BRLMs, the legal counsels and other intermediaries involved in the Offer. We cannot assure you that the RHP contains all such material information necessary for investors to make an informed investment decision.

Adfactors/582



The AIADMK leadership will take decision either to support BJP Govt in Centre or oppose it only when no-confidence motion is moved in Parliament, say O.S. Manian

All the MPs from Tamil Nadu, including AIADMK MPs, should vote against the Centre if no-confidence motion is moved in Parliament



—K. Balakrishnan
CPM State secretary

KEA Weather Forecast

Seasonal warmth to settle in over Tamilnadu

Active Rain spell that was seen over TamilNadu for the last 4 days is set to decrease with gradual increase in day time temperature over most parts of interior TN. Isolated showers might occur in few places of western ghats bordering districts. North coastal TN and delta districts will see near normal seasonal temperature.

Meanwhile thunder showers might occur in one or two places of konkan, North interior, South interior Karnataka and vidarbha.

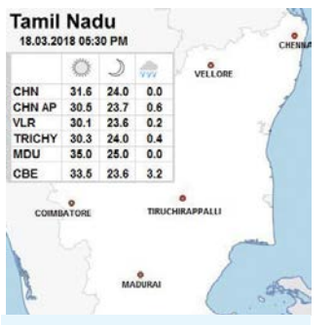
Chennai - Warm and sunny skies to prevail with highs of 33C and lows of 25C. No chance of rains.

Madurai - Hot and sunny as max temperatures settle at 37C. Night will be warmer at 25C. No chance for rains.

Coimbatore -Partly sunny and warm with highs of 35C and lows of 23C. Chance for a shower or two in the vicinity.

Tiruchy - Very warm and sunny with mercury scaling highs of 36C. Nights will be tad warmer at 25C. No chance for rains.

Vellore - Increasing warmth in the air as max settles at 35C. Nights tend to be comfy at 23C. No chance of rains.



24 HRS. HIGHLIGHTS

Thenkasi in Tirunelveli district receives 7cm rainfall, while Ayikudi in Tirunelveli district gets 6cm.

■ Rural students perform well ■ Offers range from ₹2.4L to ₹3.6L

Soft skills training brings 1,000 job offers to AU students

A. RAGU RAMAN | DC
CHENNAI, MARCH 18



Even as the recruitment trend paints a grim picture across engineering colleges in the state, the special soft skills and programming training imparted to students from 14 university colleges of Anna University shown promise has it fetched nearly 1,000 job offers this year.

Due to the special training, the university was able to convince IT majors such as Infosys, TCS and HCL to conduct recruitment drive for these colleges as well. The students have received offers from ₹2.4 lakh to ₹3.6 lakh per annum.

"Compared to last year, the number of job offers received by the university constituent colleges is very satisfying. Most of the students who got placed are rural students. We are confident that the numbers will cross 1,000 by end of April," said T. Thyagarajan, director, Centre for University-Industry Collaboration (CUIC), Anna University.

The CUIC has conducted training programme exclusively focusing on university colleges to develop English communication skills and aptitude of the students. The training programme was sponsored by Titan as part of its CSR programme.

"From the 14 colleges 1,386 students were selected for training based on their CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) and their past performance in the university exams. The students who have more than 7.5 CGPA were selected for the training programme," he said.

Apart from Titan, TCS is also providing soft skills training focusing on socially and economically backward students in these colleges. Renault and Nissan technology centre has increased its intake for domain specific training to 1,200 students this year. The training is provided to the students from all affiliated engineering colleges. Thirdware technology also has sponsored Java programming skills training for students in Villupuram and Tindivanam colleges. The university has also conducted pre-test and post training test to know whether the students have improved after the training. "The post training tests have revealed that 60% to 70% students have shown improvement after the training. Their communication skills and confidence level increased which helped them do well in interviews," said T. Kalaiselvan, additional director, CUIC. University College of Engineering in Kancheepuram had placed 42 students out of 132 qualified candidates studying in final year so far. "The training has made a major difference this year. Apart from IT majors, several companies like Prodapt and Ecotech are also visiting the campuses. We expect a few more companies in the coming weeks," said Lakshmipathy, placement co-ordinator, University College of Engineering, Kancheepuram. Similarly, the Villupuram college also placed 50 students out of 180 who are eligible for campus interviews. Colleges in Dindigul and Arni also placed many students this year. Some of these colleges are arranging IT trainers to train their students for interviews. "Our students have requested more training before the interviews. So, we have arranged IT trainers to train our students for placement interviews. Many students found the training helpful," said M.Vinothkumar, placement officer, University College of Engineering, Dindigul. "To help the students from our constituent colleges, the CUIC has conducted special training programmes and placement drives. The experiment was successful as the rural students studying in colleges such as Kancheepuram and Ariyalur have done well in the placement interviews," said S.Ganesan, registrar, Anna University. "It's a major achievement given the current recruitment scenario," he said adding that the university will strengthen such training programmes in coming years.



FUN MOMENT

A woman enjoys the company of pigeons at Marina Beach, on Sunday.
—E. K. SANJAY

Medicos at higher risk of mental health disorders

SHWETA TRIPATHI | DC
CHENNAI, MARCH 18



After a recent report on increased risk of depression among doctors at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, government doctors and medical college students in the city admit that work-related anxiety and stressful working situations in a distinct social environment in hospitals impacts their mental health severely.

A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association says that depression among doctors is a growing problem with more than 30 percent of them having depressive symptoms, and between 20.9 percent and 43.2 percent of medical trainees screened turning out positive for depression.

According to the report, medical training involves numerous risk factors for mental illness, such as role transition, decreased sleep, relocation resulting in fewer available support systems, and feelings of isolation.

"It is not just the sight of accident victims, burn victims, children in pain and patients with amputated organs that cause anxiety or depression at workplace, but one even contemplates suicide. Being a medical student, it's not just academic pressure that takes a toll on our mental health, but such sights on an everyday basis are difficult to overcome," says Aravind Santhosh, a medical college student at Madras Medical College.

Medical college students say that though the government hospitals have a psychiatric department and trained counsellors and mental health professionals, medical students do not have access to a direct counselling cell in the college.

Resident doctors in a developing country like India have long working hours, fear violence from public in case of even unavoidable mortality, spend significant part of their younger days in studies and initially the jobs may not be financially rewarding, which contributes to the increasing burden of mental health disorders among doctors in India.

"Two students committed suicide due to depression at a government college in the city in October last year, but when students asked for a counselling session, professors said it was not rare and at least one death occurs in every batch," said a medical student on the condition of anonymity.

Explaining the causes of depression and mental health disorders in medicos, former president Indian Medical Association, Dr KK Agggarwal says, "the feeling of discontent may also be a result of humiliation from seniors or faculty, exam pattern, hurt ego (by patients or their families), the daily trauma of dealing with sickness and death, long gruelling shifts, sleep deprivation, social isolation topped with the perennial sword of litigation."

As a way to deal with this stress, some are pushed to self-destructive habits and addictions (alcohol and substance abuse) and some may even resort to the ultimate step of taking one's own life. Become a doctor demands lot of self-sacrifice. The extreme stress tests one's fortitude and perseverance every day," he added.

As the field of medicine is filled with high expectations and exceeding demands, Doctors are more at risk of burn out which can have a major impact on their productivity and also be associated with mental health issues like anxiety, depression, insomnia, substance use disorders and suicide. Doctors also hesitate to seek psychological help when in need for the fear of stigma associated it and also because of the ignorance about the significant impact of mental health issues on their lives.

"Some doctors also tend to minimise major mental health problems like severe depression, suicide, bipolar disorder as something which can get better with time or only counselling and refuse to take medications for it because of catastrophic misconceptions about side effects and stigma eventually end up with grave consequences which could have been well avoided had they sought the help of a mental health professional initially," said Dr Vivian Kapil, psychiatrist, Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre.



Man kills mom, goes to police station with 'severed' head

Pudukkottai: A 30-year-old man sent the personnel of a police station in the district into a tizzy when he walked in with the "severed head" of his mother after allegedly killing her today, police said.

They said that Anand was having frequent quarrels with his mother Rani, a widow, over a property dispute. After an argument over the issue this morning in their house, he allegedly beheaded her with a sharp weapon, carried it all the way to the Karambakudi police station and surrendered, the police said. The slain woman was acquitted in a case relating to the murder of her husband ten years ago, they added. The police said Anand was arrested.

—PTI

4 held for Thirumangalam jewellery store burglary

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

City police on Sunday arrested four persons in connection with the burglary earlier this month of a jewellery store at Thirumangalam. The police said, the burglars had gained entry on March 6 through the terrace of the building which housed the jewellery store on second avenue road in Anna Nagar (west), cut off the connection of all CCTV cameras and decamped with 6.90 kilograms of gold.

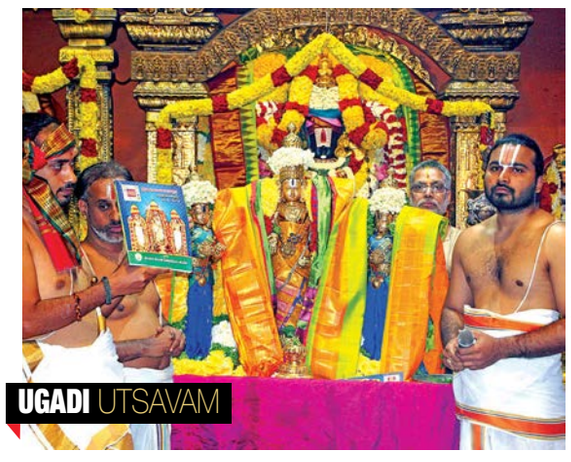
According to thye police. the jewellery store - AKS jewellery was being run by brothers Ayyappan and Siva Sankaran for the past five years in the area. Ayyapan resides only a few blocks away from his store.

A case has been registered at the Thirumangalam police station and seven special teams were formed to nab the suspects. About a month ago, Income Tax Officials had conducted a search and survey at the same jewellery store after which it was shut for a few days.

On Sunday, of the burgled gold, four kilograms has been recovered from the arrested - Arokiya John Bosco (32), Devaraj alias 'kathi kuthu' Devaraj (26), Vyasarpadi, Akash (21) and Moideen Sheikh (39).

The heist, police said is similar to the Kolathur robbery in November last year.

The pursuit of the suspects in the case led the city police to Rajasthan where Inspector S Periyapandian was killed, supposedly from accidental firing by another police Inspector who was also part of the special group. In the Kolathur incident, burglars had rented a portion above the jewellery store and drilled a hole through the first floor to gain entry.



UGADI UTSAVAM

Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at the TTD Information Centre at T Nagar, in Chennai, observed the Sri Vilambi Nama Ugadi Utsavam in a grand manner on Sunday. A large number of devotees thronged the temple since morning for a darshan of the Lord and Goddess Padmavathy on the auspicious occasion. The temple authorities made elaborate arrangements for the special day. Later, Panchanga Shravanam and Ugadi Asthanam were conducted.—DC

4 KILLED, 5 HURT IN 3 SEPARATE MISHAPS

Tiruchy: Four persons including a police constable were killed and five others injured in three different road accidents in Tiruchy and Ariyalur District since last night.

Police said Durairaj (45) a police constable was killed and three others injured when a car in which they were traveling collided with a lorry at Thottiam near here on Sunday.

A 44-year old man was killed when a car in which he was driving hit the centre median near Chathiram city bus terminal at Tiruchy on Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Karthikeyan of Mutharasanallur, police added.

In the third accident, two teenaged persons of Odisha were killed and two of their friends seriously injured when a lorry hit them near Ariyalur late on Saturday night on the Ariyalur-Tiruchy bypass road. The injured were admitted to Government hospital at Ariyalur.

—DC

'I am Joe's colon, and I am a pain'



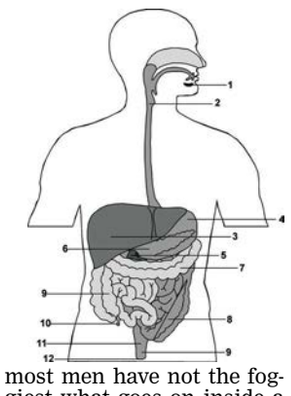
Suresh Subrahmanyan
REFLECTIONS

Cast your minds back, if you will, to the column in the Reader's Digest devoted to the human anatomy, explained in a simple and diverting style. The Digest was (is?) a monthly of compact size and as its name would suggest, devoted to condensing articles and stories from other sources and presenting them to its readers in an easily digestible form. Most respectable Indian families subscribed to the Reader's Digest, and children were encouraged to read it for its wholesome content. Doctors invariably kept the Digest in their waiting rooms for their patients to browse. Better that, than being alarmed by those graphically illustrated posters on the wall with headlines like, 'How cancer cells multiply randomly', or 'Piles, its treatment and avoidance'.

These instructive tutorials in the Digest were compulsory reading for us, with 'Laughter, the best medicine' and 'Humour in uniform' providing comic relief. Joe, a cleverly imagined fictitious character, or rather his astral body was the chosen one to lecture us on every aspect of his anatomical riches, month after month. The idea was to help us understand clearly our bodily functions, how one part of the body interacted with the other, and how everything came together in one magical, mystical whole. All this explained in a manner that was lucid to the meanest intelligence. I do recall that the primary protagonist was the abovementioned Joe, but I am quite sure there was a Jane there as well, to take care of the distaff side of things. After all, when God created Adam, quickly followed by Eve, he needed to let the world know why he made them differently. And Jane was a shoo-in to take on the delicate role of the female lab rat.

Joe's body's narrative style was, for want of a better word, lugubrious and who can blame him? Delving into your innards and sharing their dark secrets with all and sundry is not the ideal way to put one in a cheerful frame of mind. Here's Joe's body, waxing mirthlessly eloquent on his spastic colon, also known as irritable bowel syndrome. *'Spastic colon is another of my miseries. This comes mainly from stress, worry. I am very responsive to what goes on in Joe's head. Not long ago he fretted for days about losing a big contract and I responded. My colon stiffened, went into mild spasm and failed to pass food along in the proper fashion. When he calmed down I resumed normal operations'*. As my doctor used to say, 'It's all in your head'.

We like to be even handed in this column. Having dealt with one aspect of Joe's body, not the pleasantest I admit, let us turn our attentions to Jane and see what her body has to say about some aspect of her plumbing system. Let's face it, unless you are a doctor,



most men have not the foggiest what goes on inside a woman's body, leave alone inside her head, which requires an entire doctoral thesis to understand. Even then, you could be groping in the dark, in a manner of speaking. So let's hear what Jane's body has to say on her behalf in one of Reader's Digest's riveting issues. This has to do with Jane's ovaries. Relax folks, we'll keep it clean. We appreciate this is a family newspaper, but when it comes to the birds and the bees the sooner your kids cotton on to the facts of life, the better it is for all of us. YouTube is not a good option! So here goes - Jane's body on a crucial aspect of her ovaries.

'Despite our uninteresting appearance and insignificant size, my partner and I (I am Jane's right ovary) are the most feminine components of Jane's body. We play a dominant role in her life, to a great degree determining her moods, her sex drive and her general health. Indeed, it is my partner and I who transformed Jane into a woman in the first place.'

So that's how it was done! And here we were being brainwashed into thinking God yanked out one of Adam's ribs, which was surplus to requirements (even God was not perfect), and somehow Eve materialised. Substitute Joe for Adam and Jane for Eve, and we have the lead roles in our earthly Garden of Eden, leaving out the snake. There's a great deal more juicy stuff about Jane's ovaries and surrounding areas, her body blabbering on once it warmed up to the subject, but for the nonce, I think that is as good an example as you, dear reader, are going to get. Else, do your own Google search and have the time of your lives.

For the grand finale, and as space is limited, we will cover arguably the most important part of the human anatomy, one that is common to both Joe and Jane, with the latter arguably the better endowed in this regard. Over to the all-knowing, all-seeing Reader's Digest once more. *'Compared to me, other wonders of the universe pale into insignificance. I am a one and a half kilo mushroom of grey and white tissue of gelatinous consistency. No computer exists that can duplicate all my myriad functions. My component parts are staggering in number: some 30 billion neurons and five to ten times that number of glial cells. And all this fitted into the crown of a size 7 hat! I am Joe's brain'*.

Nice to meet you, Joe's brain. You're a marvel. Without you, I wouldn't be able to speak, think, walk, appreciate music and literature, have feelings and figure out the NAV of my mutual funds. But before your 'one and half kilo mushroom' gets all swollen with so much praise, think about where you would be without all those limbs and other body parts to do your bidding. Just a grey blob of mushroom. A no-brainer!

(The author is a brand consultant with an interest in music, cricket, humour and satire)

Ambattur rly station at risk for narrow FOB

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

Fearing another Elphinstone Road-like stampede that claimed more than 30 lives near Mumbai, rail passengers are raising a legitimate demand to expand the existing foot over bridge at Ambattur railway station.

"The width of the 50-year-old foot over bridge is very less and is insufficient for present traffic," K. Baskar, Divisional rail users' consultative committee member, said.

He also pointed out that a concrete slab of the FOB is damaged and officials had replaced the damaged portion with a metal plate.

"After 3 three years, the damaged portion remain unattended," he added.

Ambattur has grown from an insignificant suburban area to a major industrial zone of the city over the years. According to the railway sources, the Ambattur railway station handles as many as 140 suburban train services daily. "The railways should construct additional foot over bridge," Baskar urged.

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Chennai - 600 048.
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the registered contractors of Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur for the supply of diet articles to Arignar Anna Zoological Park for the period from **01.04.2018 - 30.09.2018** as noted in the Schedule below. Tender form will be issued from **20.03.2018** to **26.03.2018** on working days or may also be downloaded from the Government **website www.tenders.tn.gov.in.** Tender schedule will be received till **27.03.2018 by 3.00 P.M**, and will be opened on **27.03.2018 by 3.30 P.M**, **(Including Technical bid and Financial Bid)** in the Office of the Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Chennai – 600 048.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Description of Work	E.M.D. Amount Rs.	Cost of Tender form Rs. (GST 18%)
1	Supply of Beef with Bone and Liver Feed for Range I animals	82,000/-	15,000 + 2700/-
2	Supply of Beef with Bone and Liver Feed for Range II animals	28,000/-	6,000 + 1080/-
3	Supply of Beef with Bone and Liver feed for Rescue Centre Animals.	11,200/-	6,000 + 1080/-
4	Supply of Fish Feed	26,000/-	6,000 + 1080/-
5	Supply of Live Chicken and Live Chicks	13,250/-	1,500 + 270/-
6	Supply of Wheat Bran, Cattle Feed and Leaf Bran, Rice Bran	26,000/-	6,000 + 1080/-
7	Supply of Non-Perishable Feed	28,000/-	6,000 + 1080/-
8	Supply of Perishable Feed	36,500/-	6,000 + 1080/-

For further details may contact Phone No. 044-22751089.

DIPR / 1161 / TENDER / 2018 Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director

"Congress is celebrating at the outcome of an election, unmindful of the fact that its candidates have lost their security deposits



— Jitendra Singh
Union minister

IN BRIEF

3 AIIMS doctors killed in accident

Mathura (UP): Three AIIMS doctors, one of them woman, died early on Sunday and four others of the same institute were injured in an accident on the Yamuna Expressway near here, police said. The seven doctors including three women, posted as resident doctors at AIIMS, were travelling to Agra from Delhi in an SUV to celebrate birthday of Dr Harshad Wankhade, who was among those killed in the accident. The SUV rammed into a canter around 2.30 am, they said.

Top cop moved out from Yogi bastion

Lucknow: After the district magistrate of Gorakhpur was transferred, the Uttar Pradesh government removed senior superintendent of police Satyarth Aniruddh Pankaj on late Saturday night. Pankaj was among 43 IPS officers transferred close on the heels of the surprise defeat of the BJP in Gorakhpur, the bastion of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in a parliamentary bypoll. A state government press note said the SSP Gorakhpur has been made SP Personnel.

INDIA ISSUES ANOTHER NOTE VERBALE TO PAK

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

The Indo-Pak diplomat harassment row continues to worsen, with two more cases of harassment of Indian diplomats in Islamabad on Sunday following which India issued another note verbale-the 13th one this year on the matter-to Pakistan. India also asked Pakistan for a probe into the fresh incidents while asking for the results of the probe to be shared with it. In the two fresh incidents on Sunday, one Indian diplomat going to a restaurant in Islamabad was "aggressively" followed by some people in a car while in the second incident, four Indian diplomats travelling in an official vehicle on their way to a market were tailed by two people on a motorcycle.

Indian Government sources on Sunday said, "Another Note Verbale was sent today, 18 March, by our High Commission in Islamabad to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan protesting against the intimidation and harassment of Indian High Commission officials.

PARRIKAR MAY COME BACK NEXT MONTH

Panaji, March 18: Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar is "responding positively" to the medical treatment in the US and is expected to return to India in the second week of April, a senior BJP leader said on Sunday.

Parrikar had left from Goa for Mumbai in the first week of March. He later went to USA for further treatment of a pancreatic ailment.



"Parrikar is responding positively to the treatment in the US. His all parameters are normal and he would be taking treatment for another fortnight there before coming back to India in the second week of April," the BJP Goa unit leader said.

Parrikar was initially admitted to the Lilavati Hospital after being diagnosed with mild pancreatitis last month. He was discharged after a few days and returned to Goa to present the budget on February 21.

After a couple of days, he was admitted to the Goa Medical College and Hospital near here.

Later, he again went to the Lilavati Hospital on March 5 and from there he was taken to the US.

FRESH INNINGS

Manmohan: BJP has messed up economy

Says allotting 1.6 per cent of GDP for defence not enough

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the NDA government, accusing it of having "messed up" the economy and mismanaging the dispute in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at the party plenary, the former Prime Minister said: "The BJP government made tall promises. Modi himself said that his government will double farmers' incomes. For that, a growth rate of 12 per cent per annum is necessary, which is unthinkable in the current scenario."

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proclivity for "jumlebaazi" (empty rhetoric), Dr Singh charged that the work done by this government falls short of the claims made by its leaders.

Attacking the government on the economy, Dr Singh said: "The BJP claimed in 2014 that if it came to power it would provide two crore jobs. But we have not seen even two lakh jobs." He also added that the "ill-thought and ill-conceived" demonetisation plan and "hastily put forward" legislation on GST had destroyed many jobs and created problems for the small and medium scale and the informal sector, both in terms of production and providing jobs.

Dr Singh spoke on many issues, and was accorded a standing ovation by the party leaders.

He further added: "The Modi government has mismanaged Jammu and Kashmir like never before, the atmosphere is deteriorating day in and day out, that is obvious from the fact that our borders are insecure." Noting the cut in the defence budget, Dr Singh said: "The defence expenditure of our country is no more than 1.6 per cent of our GDP. This is far too inadequate to meet the challenges of our security apparatus and our needs."



Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad shares a lighter moment with former Finance Minister P Chidambaram and veteran Congress MP Ambika Soni in New Delhi on Sunday. — *PTI*

Rhetoric of a loser: Nirmala on Rahul

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday brushed off the scathing series of accusations made by Congress president Rahul Gandhi, calling it the "rhetoric of a loser, devoid of substance".

"The Congress president and his party loses no opportunity to mock the Hindu religion and its rituals. The story he narrated of some priest asking him for a wall of gold for the temple is an example. This is a party that has questioned the very existence of Shri Ram. I would only suggest that he not go to quack priests but genuine ones," said Ms Sitharaman, soon after Mr Gandhi's speech at the 84th Congress plenary.

Responding to the Congress president's remarks on BJP chief Amit Shah, Ms Sitharaman said: "It is astonishing that the Congress president chooses to name the president of the BJP and says he is a murder accused. He has been cleared by a court. The charge does not hold, even though the charge was a complete conspiracy against him. It was a conspiracy based on fraud and you continue to say this."

SIDHU: MANMOHAN'S SILENCE DID WHAT BJP'S UPROAR COULDN'T

New Delhi, March 18: Punjab minister Navjot Singh Sidhu was full of praise for a reticent Manmohan Singh on Sunday and said the former prime minister's silence did what the ruling BJP's uproar could not.

Addressing the 84th plenary session of the Congress here, Sidhu, a former BJP MP who had often targeted Singh over his reluctance to speak out on issues, also apologised to the former prime minister. Sidhu, in his speech peppered with poetry and witty remarks, also said that Singh was both Sardar (a Sikh) and asardar (effective)". — *PTI*

CONGRESS: FOREIGN POLICY IS CONFUSED

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

Congress President Rahul Gandhi referred to the overwhelming Chinese presence in India's neighbourhood, even as his party slammed the Modi government's foreign policy, saying it was "confused" and conducted in a "cavalier manner" which has damaged India's profile globally.

"China is everywhere... It is in Doklam...", said Gandhi, who then proceeded to reel off the names of several countries in India's immediate neighbourhood in which the Chinese have significant presence and influence. The reference to Doklam in Bhutanese territory was also significant since India and China had a military stand-off there last year that was resolved after intense negotiations between the two sides.

While foreign policy observers had seen the Doklam disengagement as a victory of India's resolve, subsequent reports indicated that a humiliated Chinese PLA had built massive infrastructure in that area away from the face-off site.

The Congress meanwhile on Sunday slammed the Modi government's foreign policy, saying it was "confused" and conducted in a "cavalier manner" which has damaged India's profile globally.

The party, in a resolution adopted at its 84th plenary session, accused the NDA government of pursuing a foreign policy "bereft of focus and direction". The resolution said the Modi has pursued a personalised foreign policy and his foreign engagements have been reduced to merely being "transactional".

5 of a family killed in Pak shelling, 5 jawans injured

FROM PAGE 1

J&K's works minister and chief spokesman of the PDP-BJP government Syed Naeem Akhter, among several government functionaries who visited the injured girls in the hospital, said that one of victims had to undergo surgery and that she is now recuperating.

"The government will take full care of these minor girls who have no one left in the family to look after them," he said adding that all the administrative measures are being taken to reach out to the affected population in the area.

Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti expressed deep shock and grief over the killings. She termed the incident as "heart wrenching" and said that it caused a wave of shock among the people of the State.

She reiterated, "Dialogue and reconciliation are the only means to get the State and the region out of this vicious cycle of blood spilling" and appealed all sections of society and governments to support the entreaty.

The officials in Muzaffarabad said that nine civilians including two minor girls were injured in the Indian firing in Nakyal sector of the PoK's Poonch district.



Nasreen Kouser injured in the cross-border shelling being shifted to a hospital in Jammu on Sunday. — *PTI*

More harassment claims against Pak

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

The Indo-Pak diplomat harassment row continues to worsen, with two more cases of harassment of Indian diplomats in Islamabad on Sunday following which India issued another note verbale — the 13th one this year on the matter-to Pakistan. India also asked Pakistan for a probe into the fresh incidents while asking for the results of the probe to be shared with it.

In the two fresh incidents on Sunday, one Indian diplomat going to a restaurant in Islamabad was "aggressively" followed by some people in a car while in the second incident, four Indian diplomats travelling in an official vehicle on their way to a market were tailed by two people on a motorcycle.

Indian Government sources on Sunday said, "Another Note Verbale was sent on Friday, 18 March, by our High Commission in Islamabad to the ministry of foreign affairs of Pakistan protesting against the intimidation and harassment of Indian High Commission officials.

IN THE TWO fresh incidents on Sunday, one Indian diplomat going to a restaurant in Islamabad was "aggressively" followed by some people in a car while in the second incident, four Indian diplomats travelling in an official vehicle on their way to a market were tailed by two people on a motorcycle.

This was the 13th Note Verbale this year on the subject."

Sources said, "On 18 March, second secretary at the High Commission was aggressively followed by unidentified people in a car in close proximity in an intimidating manner while he was going to Chhaye Khana restaurant. Videos were made using mobiles. On Friday, four High Commission of India officials travelling in an official vehicle were aggressively followed while going to Aabpara market by two unknown persons on motorbikes in an intimidating manner."



NIA CLAIMS ZELIANG HELPED FUND TERROR

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, MARCH 18

The National Investigation Agency has stumbled upon documentary evidence, indicating the involvement of former Nagaland chief minister T.R. Zeliang into a terror funding case of Nagaland.

Though, Mr Zeliang has refused to appear before the agency to clarify his position, security sources said that former chief minister will have to appear for his cross examination.

Pointing out that agency was in possession of glaring evidence indicating his direct involvement in siphoning of government funds and facilitating it to National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K), security sources said that Mr Zeliang has sent a written reply through his advocate to NIA but "it was not enough".

Pointing out that NIA sleuths have recovered documents signed by Mr Zeliang to facilitate fund for NSCN(K), security sources said that former chief minister who is now the leader of opposition in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly has sought another date for appearing before the agency.

Referring about his written reply submitted to the NIA, security sources said that Mr Zeliang's advocate in a written reply to investigating agency has clarified that he has nothing to do with the siphoning of government funds to NSCN (K) or any other outfit.

He has also mentioned that if government departments have been doing so, he was not aware of it and had that been brought to his knowledge he would have put an end to it.

KATIYAR ASKS 'HINDUS FOR SACRIFICE'

DC CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW, MARCH 18

BJP MP Vinay Katiyar has created a fresh controversy on the Ayodhya-Babri Masjid issue by saying that the Ram temple movement needs another sacrifice from the Hindu community.

Talking to reporters in Faizabad on Sunday, Mr Katiyar said, "Another revolution like the one in which several people were killed in 1990 during police firing and in 1992 when the mosque was demolished, is needed. The Hindu community should be ready for this sacrifice."

Mr Katiyar said that Hindus must be prepared for an agitation that will demand sacrifices from them.

The BJP leader who is known to be a firebrand Hindu leader also, mounted a veiled attack on his own government.

"There may be any government in the state but the Ram Janambhoomi issue will have to be revived by the people who have to prepare for sacrifices. The government cannot do this," he told mediapersons.

Mr Katiyar said that till now thousands of people had sacrificed their lives for the Ram Temple movement.

"These include those killed in police firing ordered by the Mulayam Singh government in 1990, those killed in riots after the Babri demolition and other related incidents," he stated.

MP, C'garh clash over chicken

Bhopal, March 18: A protein-rich breed of chicken, popularly known as 'Kadaknath', has virtually become a bone of contention between Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states, with both staking claim over its nativity.

The two neighbouring states have filed applications with the Geographical Indication registry office in Chennai to obtain the 'GI tag' for this black-winged chicken variety.

'Kadaknath' is known for its high iron content and much lower cholesterol than other breeds, and sells at a much higher price than other varieties, say experts.



"MP is likely to get the GI nativity tag for the tan-blooded bird, which has its origin in the state's Jhabua district," MP animal husbandry department's additional deputy director Dr Bhagwan Manghnani said.

"The Gramin Vikas Trust of Jhabua applied for the GI tag in 2012 on behalf of the tribal families involved in breeding it," he said. Chhattisgarh too staked its claim for the GI tag of 'Kadaknath' recently. — *PTI*

ONE YEAR OF YOGI

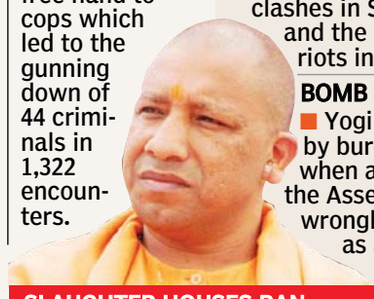
AS HE COMPLETES ONE YEAR IN OFFICE ON MONDAY, UP CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH GETS BOUQUETS AND BRICKBATS.

A FIGHTER
■ The Chief Minister had created a sparkling image for himself. Known to be a tough administrator with a clean reputation, he is a man few would dare to mess with.

BRD MISHAP
■ The first blot on the Yogi government was the death of children in BRD hospital in Gorakhpur, allegedly due to shortage of oxygen.

ANTI-ROMEO SQUADS
■ To deal with the law and order situation, among other changes Yogi set up anti-Romeo squads to deal with crime against women. But they were in the news for showing force on young couples.

ENCOUNTERS
■ The chief minister gave a free hand to cops which led to the gunning down of 44 criminals in 1,322 encounters.



RIOTS
■ Law and order deterioration seen in caste clashes in Saharanpur and the communal riots in Kasganj.

BOMB SCARE
■ Yogi was misled by bureaucracy when a powder in the Assembly was wrongly identified as a bomb.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES BAN
■ Yogi's decision to ban illegal slaughter houses and make registration of Madarasas must raised eyebrows.
■ The state government, in a show of over zealousness imposed saffronisation on aesthetics painting walls of government schools and hospitals saffron, apart from getting saffron school bags and saffron upholstery.

WRONG TURN

■ In Banchhada community, women are given importance for wrong reasons

In MP, birth of a girl is auspicious for flesh trade

Neemuch (MP), March 18: While female foeticide due to preference for boys is an issue that is plaguing India, there is a community in Madhya Pradesh that actually celebrates the birth of a girl child, albeit for not a positive reason.

Members of Banchhada community, who operate family-based prostitution for livelihood, consider the birth of a girl auspicious as it means another breadwinner for the family.

For the community, which is mainly settled in Ratlam, Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh, prostitution is a way of life, passed down generations and young girls are groomed to become prostitutes as male members mostly live off their earnings.

A survey conducted by the MP Women Empowerment Department in 2015 in 38 villages in Mandsaur, showed that their population in the district was 3,435, with 2,243 women and 1,192 men. "It means as compared to men, the population of women is almost the double," Chouhan said.

A similar exercise held in 2012 in Neemuch's 24 Banchhada-dominated villages also showed that the number of women is more than the men — 3,595 women and 2,770 men.

"This belt — Ratlam, Mandsaur and Neemuch, notorious for opium cultivation, is also known for Banchhada community, in which prostitution has been given a societal approval," Akash Chouhan, coordinator of Nai Abha Samajik Chetna Samiti, an NGO, said.

"As the members of the community are dependent on the women of the family for livelihood, they always celebrate the birth of a girl child with pomp, unlike others. For earning their daily bread, the male members allow their women to indulge in prostitution, although it is illegal in the eyes of law," he added.

Citing a census report, Chouhan said, "The total population of Banchhada community, which is spread over 75 villages in the three districts, is about 23,000, of which at least 65 per cent are women." - *PTI*

IN 2016, 1 LAKH KIDS FACED SEXUAL ASSAULT

SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES INVOLVING CHILD VICTIMS ROSE TO OVER 1 LAKH IN 2016 ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

■ **ONLY 229** of them were adjudicated upon by trial courts, the Supreme Court was told.

■ **THE FIGURE** were brought recently to the notice of a bench which asked the Registrar Generals of high courts to collect and collate data on pending cases of sexual offences against children as victims lodged under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

DECCAN Chronicle

19 MARCH 2018

For Congress, now comes the hard part

Important messages emerging from the two-day 84th plenary session of the Congress Party, which ended in New Delhi on Sunday, suggest that the party realises it has been pushed into a tight corner after its low score in the last Lok Sabha elections, and is prepared to make the effort to fix the problem. The niggardly result had badly lowered party morale. The mood has turned positive only after the Gujarat poll results late last year where the party did very creditably. This result owed to two main factors: the Congress sought to build social coalitions as well as a minor political one, and it gave tickets to grassroots workers.

These are the essentials that party chief Rahul Gandhi, who took charge in December, and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, sought to underscore. The message which gains salience in the immediate political context of the preparations for the next Lok Sabha election is that the party will adopt a "practical" approach to facilitate the coming together of "like-minded parties", which means sharpening the ability to strike working arrangements with any party ranged against the ruling BJP.

This won't be easy, given that many regional "secular" parties remain wary of the Congress, but the party is conscious that its future advance will be thwarted if the BJP is not defeated.

In the party president's nearly hour-long speech at the close of the Delhi plenary, Rahul Gandhi clearly noted that the country will 'punish' the Congress if the party was seen only to be making a 'grab for power'

Speaking at the conclave, Mrs Gandhi recalled how at the Shimla conference of the leadership in 2003 the Congress had decided on the wisdom of seeking election allies, in the process jettisoning the understanding of the 1997 Panchmarhi conference which had underlined the idea of the Congress going it alone.

In the party president's nearly hour-long speech at the close of the Delhi plenary, Mr Gandhi clearly noted that the country will "punish" the Congress if the party was seen only to be making a "grab for power". This could be interpreted as being accommodative toward allies on the question of leadership of the UPA if such a coalition can upstage the BJP and its allies, unless the Congress has a decisive numerical edge in the next Lok Sabha.

In order to do long-term repair of the party's image — characterised by nepotism and clinging to party posts — the Congress president said his "first task" would be to knock down barriers between leaders and workers, and to promote workers lower down the order. This again may not be easy to do in a party with certain ingrained cultural traits.

But as Mr Gandhi noted, paraphrasing his famous remarks in the United States last year that the party had shown "arrogance" towards the end of the UPA-2 period, the Congress had ceased to find the acceptance of the nation in the UPA's latter phase. The diagnosis is sound. The cure too must keep up.

A boost for Indian soccer

A fitting finale was given to another exciting Indian Super League season. Chennaiyin FC's triumph, the team's second, was not quite David slaying Goliath even if Bengaluru FC were the more fancied team with weightier imports, but they've never won the league. What Chennai's victory showed was that consistent encouragement of Indian talent can help build a fighting combination. Several young Chennaiyin players had a very good season. The way they bonded was clear in their victory in an away game in Bengaluru, in a stadium filled with the rival team's fans. The win itself might be due to the passion the Brazilians bring to the field, regardless of age or standing. Slotting all three goals that settled the final, Brazilian players Mailson Alves and Raphael Augusto were worth their weight in gold for Chennaiyin and its star co-owner Abhishek Bachchan.

There's no doubt ISL has helped Indian soccer find its way up the high ladder of world soccer, with over 200 nations involved in the "beautiful game". The foreign coaches have brought not only modern methods of training and technique, but also a work ethic much needed in India's sporting environment. The pro league has set standards for teams in a holistic way more than the I-League, the baby of the football federation, though national players are common to both. The idea of merging the leagues has been mooted for a while, but the existence of two leagues will broaden the field and allow more talent to come up. The I-League must draw more from ISL's expertise to help improve Indian soccer's standing, currently 99 as compared to 173 in 2015, just after ISL started.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

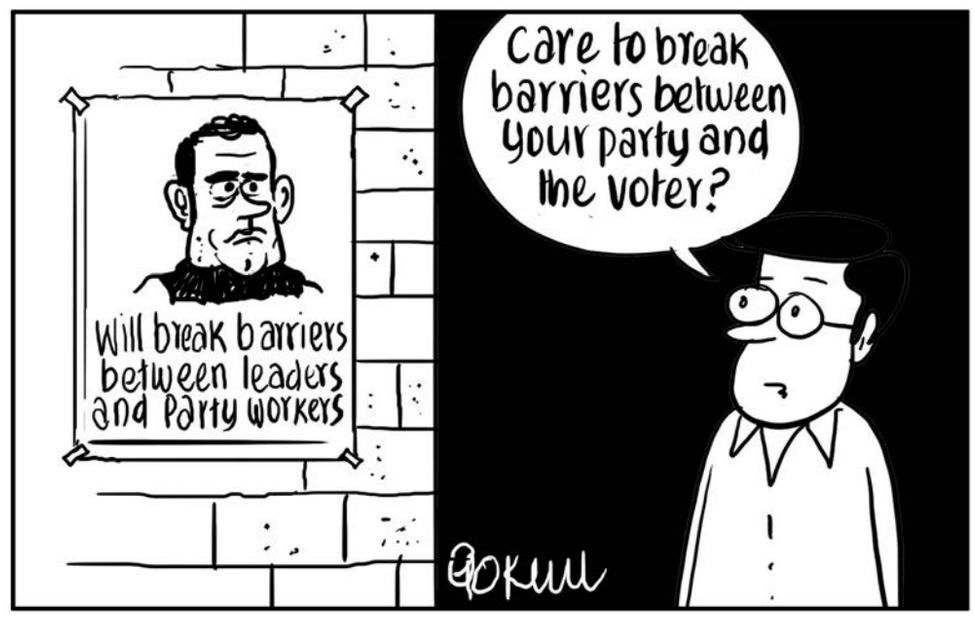
A.T. JAYANTI
Editor

O. THOMAS
Printer & Publisher

R. MOHAN
Resident Editor

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:
Chennai: SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748
Coimbatore: 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore 641009. Phone: (0422) 2231255, 2231256
Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phone: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040) 27805256.
Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: 08043460500; Fax: 080-22960551/52/55
Visakhapatnam: Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Phones: (0891) 2552333/2552334, Fax (0891) 2755285
Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/ 2555287, Fax (0866) 2555234
Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry 533125. Phones: (0883) 2417208, 2417618
Anantapur: Thapovan Colony, Bangalore Bye-Pass Road, Anantapur 515004. Phones: (08554) 276903, Fax: 08554-276904
Nellore: Survey No. 527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/ 82, Telefax (0861) 2348580
Karimnagar: Survey No. 1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228908; Telefax (0878) 2220433
Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408
Kozhikode: No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001 Fax : 0495 4019018
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Gokul Gopalakrishnan



Diplomatic brawl with Pak may not end soon



K.C. Singh

Using diplomats as whipping-boys in India-Pakistan relations is neither new nor is it likely to end anytime soon. Basically, while India wants the status quo to be maintained, Pakistan is a revisionist power that repeatedly since 1947 has sought to alter the lines dividing the two nations in the west, particularly the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Thus, during phases of the resumed bilateral dialogue, called "composite dialogue" since 1997 till the Narendra Modi government renamed it the "comprehensive dialogue", the diplomats are largely left alone except for residual surveillance or close monitoring of suspected spies masquerading as diplomats.

But once the political channel weakens, the security apparatus in Pakistan, led by the military's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), ups the harassment of Indian diplomats, staff and their families. This can take extreme forms like picking up non-diplomatic officials for interrogation on the pretext of espionage or the declaring of diplomatic officials, allegedly for such activity, as persona non grata, effectively forcing their immediate recall. Normally a tit-for-tat response follows, with similar expulsions by the other country. The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1963 provides for such action.

But the convention does not provide for harassment of another nation's diplomats. In fact, under Article 44, even during armed hostilities, it mandates that diplomatic officials and staff must be allowed to leave at the earliest and without trouble. Under Article 30, even the "private residence" of a protected person is inviolable. Thus, some of the behaviour reported by the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad about intrusions into homes, shutting off of water or emptying of surplus tanks, etc, is a clear breach of the convention.

In the past, the surveillance has always been an irritant, though sometimes with humorous outcomes. An Indian envoy having lost his way en route to an appointment stopped, walked back to the tailing car and, tongue in cheek, requested them to lead as they surely knew the way and were anyway heading for the same destination. But such humour has been missing of late as the surveillance has got aggressive and even abusive or obstructive.

After India chose to retaliate in kind, the Pakistanis have recalled their high commissioner for consultations. Reports indicate that he is unlikely to return anytime soon. Meanwhile, Pakistan has decided to skip the WTO ministerial that India had convened, as a mark of protest over the ill-treatment of their diplomats and their families.

Generally, in the past, retaliatory treatment has had a salutary effect as the Pakistan foreign office gets a handle on their security agencies and reels them back. This time that seems unlikely in the short run as Pakistan has already entered an election cycle and the government is weak after repeated attacks by the military-judiciary combine on the PML(N) leadership and the Nawaz Sharif family. The Pakistani military is also keeping the Line of Control in Kashmir in a free-fire condition, hoping to sustain militancy in the Kashmir Valley, by maintaining the supply of new mujahideen and boosting the morale of depleted but residual cadres.

But is this peculiar to South Asia? In August 2017, the United States withdrew some diplomats from Cuba as they complained of nausea, hearing loss, headaches, etc. The US determined that they had been subjected to a "secret Cuban sonic weapon", probably employed for snooping but which had unexpected health effects. This started after President Donald Trump was elected. The US embassy, opened by his predecessor Barack Obama in July-August 2015, had experienced no such difficulties earlier. Before that period, visiting US diplomats were given the Pakistan-type treatment.

Surely the Pakistani agencies realise that such ham-handed behaviour with diplomats will degrade the very instrument needed to maintain proper communication between the two estranged nations. One immediate consequence has been India advising its personnel to restrict movement to the high commission compound in Islamabad, and to ensure that non-diplomatic staff use cars with diplomatic plates for forays into Islamabad. The next step could be declaring Islamabad a non-family station, as many Western nations already have due to the terrorism theat. India may, unlike them, on a reciprocal basis also restrict Pakistani numbers in their New Delhi mission.

Pakistan is signalling that the so-called "zero tolerance" policy of the Narendra Modi government, premised on no talks till terrorism is eliminated, India-specific militant groups curbed and the conspirators of 26/11 brought to justice, has failed. Undeniably, boycotting Pakistan bilaterally cannot result in mere stasis or animated suspension. Pakistan will provoke matters by heating up the border, attempting another "Jadhav" episode, misbehaving with Indian diplomats or boycotting Indian meetings, etc. The aim is to provoke, invite international attention to the stand-off and project defiance. Pakistan would also align more forcefully with other neighbours resentful of Indian dominance in South Asia.

Iran inviting the Pakistanis and the Chinese to Chabahar to consider cooperation indicates that all countries are hedging their bets. The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia proclaims that if Iran gets nuclear weapons they shall likewise do so swiftly. The only quick method decipherable is for Pakistan to transfer some to them, in delayed payment for past financing of their programme and continuing financial support. Then there is the perennial Chinese hand propping up Pakistan, even economically now through the $60-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. US President Donald Trump waving a periodic fist at Pakistan should not be the sole determinant of its isolation.

Thus, restoring normality to the functioning of diplomatic missions should be a priority, provided that the Pakistan foreign office has some control left on that country's security agencies. The Indian government will also soon be in its final year, and multiple election cycles may not leave it with the will to tweak its Pakistan policy. Thus, Indian and Pakistani diplomats may have a harrowing year ahead: of being strong-armed by the security agencies.

Restoring normality to the functioning of diplomatic missions should be a priority, provided that the Pakistan foreign office has some control left on that country's security agencies

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh

LETTERS

NAUSEATING PLEA

It is nauseating to note that the self-styled Godman Nithyananda's lawyer has changed the plea of the accused in the Karnataka high court that it was not rape but a case of consensual sex in connection with the complaint lodged by an NRI that she was raped by Nithyananda during her stay in his Ashram at Biladi near Bengaluru. It is highly regrettable and rather abominable to see so many women still follow this dubious man as his staunch supporters nay disciples.

S. Vaithianathan, *Madurai*

NOT POSSIBLE

Apropos report *AP will be next Tripura: BJP leader*. It is impossible to make Andhra another Tripura! If BJP piggybacks on the 'Jana Sena' it will be jinxed at the hustings as the latter is not a formidable force. And if it aligns with Mr Jagan Reddy who is facing umpteen corruption cases the tall claim that BJP will fight against corruption will ring hollow. After the BJP's fiasco in the recent by-polls and seeing its steady decline, Mr Chandrababu Naidu has risked quitting NDA. The BJP's sheer arrogance - which damned the AP Bifurcation Act, denied the promised special status or funds in lieu of the special status - is the root cause for its predicament. It is time Mr Modi government gave up its intransigence, placated its allies to run the show sans hiccups. Otherwise it will be forced to sail solo.

A. Seshagiri Rao, *Chennai*

LEGEND WILL LIVE ON

This refers to your report *Inspirational physicist Hawking dies at 76*. An expositor extraordinary, and Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge University Stephen Hawking's life-work is a role model and an object lesson for many a physically challenged person. Professor Hawking blessed with the fettle and fibre to endure with cheerful fortitude his motor neurone disease. This set in when he was around 21. But without a trace of self-pity, moroseness or despondency, he used his residual ability, like John Milton and Helen Keller - to the utmost. His superb well-honed syntax, his brief crisp sentences so easy and gripping to read: the outcome of his mathematically and rigorously trained razor-sharp brain, produced luminous prose similar to that of Bertrand Russel, Sir C.V. Raman, Sir James Jeans and Sir Harold Spencer Jones. Professor Hawking's *Black Holes and Baby Universes And Other Essays* is a scintillating work marked by wry wit - humour, brusque schoolboyish honesty, humility and disarming candour. Ought to be read, learnt, marked and inwardly digested line by line.

P.R. Krishna Narayanan, *Chennai*

T.S. Karthik of Chennai has won the best letter of the week for the letter 'RIP Stephen Hawking' published on March 15. Kindly collect your prize of ₹500 at the *DC* office in Chennai.

Cyril Almeida

View from Pakistan



After Nawaz, 2 real options: Which one will the 'boys' take?

After Nawaz, what? Nawaz and Maryam are busy arguing — the deluge. They would. But if you're neither of them, it's a real question. Maybe the only question.

After Nawaz, what do the boys have in mind?

The question of how is increasingly uninteresting. Maybe interesting in a gosh-didn't-see that-coming way, but the trajectory is obvious: Nawaz is going down.

He may put up a fight, he may put up an almighty fight, he may increase the cost of trying to shut him out, but he's fooling no one. The system wants him out.

And the system gets its man.

The mystery of why the system wants Nawaz out makes it all the more likely Nawaz is politically a dead man walking.

It can only be hatred. And hatred is a hard thing to reverse. So, forget Nawaz. After Nawaz, what?

The good thing about the boys is that they're not particularly inventive. Or maybe because there's been so many iterations of this, the manipulated exit, the template is more or less fixed. Admittedly, there have already been significant surprises along the way. It still does not make sense why the court has chosen the sequence it has.

Hold off on an immediate ouster, toss Panama and related paraphernalia into an accountability court, get a conviction there and — gone, finished. *Khatam*.

Or let the appeal linger and finish him off in campaign season proper, if Nawaz still hasn't got the message by then. But the court chose to hang it on a wretched *iqama*.

Maybe it's just that the bigger they are, the less willing they are to share credit, the spotlight, whatever. To hell with credibility when there's glory to be had.

And the coup in Balochistan to the silly exercise of a manipulated Senate election to the even sillier exercise of a manipulated Senate chairmanship election suggests a mind at work that has read too many bad spy novels.

Like the intricacy of the hunt is more fun than the kill itself. Maybe it is. But after Nawaz, what? There's really only two options. The first is to replicate the current political landscape, minus actual politics. There it is: one Centre, four different provincial set-ups.

It's held up for a full parliamentary term and the messy period before, so replicating a mess shouldn't be all that difficult. Or at least not impossible.

There's plenty of experience already — recent, ongoing experience. The audaciousness of a takeover at the Centre has obscured that funny business has been the norm for much of the country for years now.

Balochistan fell early this century and the vice is still tight.

Clumsy to some, masterstroke to others, it is what it is: deep, deep political and electoral knowledge. All the more potent because political parties have more or less been kept at arm's length from the region.

Fata never was in the political ambit to begin with, but its distance from politics proper has grown. A necessary war and unnecessary clumsiness by the civilians has put Fata deeper than ever into the other column.

Karachi was the next to fall. The Musharraf era is what originally set up Karachi for a fall. Turning the city completely over to the MQM was always going to draw pushback from everyone else — once pushback became feasible.

Musharraf's ouster made pushback feasible and soon enough it was open season. The starving and fattened alike fought for their share and what they thought was their right.

The Karachi operation became inevitable. And Karachi opened the door to Sindh. A door that Zardari has struggled to keep merely ajar, not flung wide open. Sometimes Zardari is up, other times he's down, but the ingress is real.

Then Zarb-i-Azb opened the door to Punjab. It helped that the reason was genuine. After pacifying all of Fata, operating in all seven agencies, the fight had to turn to counterterrorism.

Counterterrorism primarily meant Punjab, the last great untouched bastion. The Sharifs have resisted and somewhat succeeded, but there's an inexorableness to it.

Plus there's the recently accumulated experience of managing stuff everywhere.

The other option is the old one: re-centralisation.

It would explain the Senate stuff. Like Nawaz needs the Senate to fight his way back in, the boys need the Senate to rearrange some constitutional furniture.

A post-politics, post-big party, Senate and NA is a version of something old, something new. If party-less elections aren't an option for the democratic veneer, then party-based-minus-defiant-party-leaders elections it has to be.

The advantage: it's less messy; the disadvantage: concentrated power rankles and draws challenge.

If you were one of the boys, you'd choose the first option: messy, but diffuse. Luckily for the rest of us, the boys can be their own worst enemy. Prepare for the second option.

By arrangement with ***Dawn***

Gorakhpur, Phulpur: A story beyond 2 seats



Sanjay Kumar

The turn of political events and the results of various byelections held in various states have opened a debate — if the 2019 Lok Sabha elections are still open or are we reading too much into the results of the byelections? The results of the byelections held in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan may not have been too worrying for the BJP, but its defeat in the recent byelections to the Gorakhpur and Phulpur Lok Sabha seats do send out some signals, which should be a matter of concern for the party. These results might help in energising parties in the Opposition for working towards forming an alliance against the BJP.

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav has already made the first move in that direction. He met Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayawati recently. Even before the results were announced, leaders of various regional parties attended a dinner hosted by senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. One hardly wonders what might have been discussed with these leaders over the dinner. Had SP not been able to win the Gorakhpur and Phulpur seats, with the BSP's backing, the dinner would have been a non-starter, with regard to the talks about forming a non-BJP alliance. But this victory will certainly give momentum to any efforts for forming a non-BJP *morcha*, though forming an all-India alliance still remains a difficult proportion due to the nature of the state-level contest between the political parties.

The defeat of the BJP in the UP byelections, more so in Gorakhpur, should ring alarm bells for the party. More than the numbers (only two Lok Sabha seats) it is the names of these two seats which are more significant. Gorakhpur was represented in Parliament by chief minister Yogi Adityanath and Phulpur by his deputy Keshav Prasad Maurya. Both the seats were won by a very high margin during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, with the BJP polling more than 50 per cent votes. While in 2014 the BJP polled 52.4 per cent votes in Phulpur, in Gorakhpur it polled 51.8 per cent votes. It is important to note that the Gorakhpur Lok Sabha seat has been with the BJP since 1989. The BJP should have won both these seats even if the BSP-SP and other parties came together in their fight against it, as the party had polled more than 50 per cent votes in previous elections only if the BJP had managed to retain its support base.

The cause of anxiety for the BJP should be that it not only lost these two seats, but the swing of votes away from the party is more than 10 per cent in both these constituencies, not a small number of votes given the fact that the party has been in power only for the last one year. Normally, the honeymoon period for any government easily continues till about two years. The BJP should have been in a much stronger position since the honeymoon period of the Narendra Modi-led NDA government has extended beyond that as the government is about to enter its last year.

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This decline in 10 per cent votes for the BJP, that too in a Lok Sabha seat like Gorakhpur, suggests that something is seriously wrong with the party in UP where it registered two successive victories (2014 and 2017) with such a huge margin. It is true that byelections are mostly contested on local issues and national or even state-level issues do not take centrestage, but this massive decline in the support base of the BJP clearly indicates the unhappiness of voters. I do not negate the fact that local issues may have taken centrestage in Gorakhpur and Phulpur, but the BJP may be making a mistake if it still wishes to ignore the farmers' agitation across the country, dalits and students protests in parts of the country. The lower sections of voters, especially dalits and lower sections of OBC who had voted for the BJP in very large numbers both in 2014 and 2017, seemed to have moved away from it in these byelections. There is no reason to believe that this mood of voters may be restricted only to these two constituencies, and does not travel beyond the boundaries of the state. The defeat of the BJP in the byelections held in Rajasthan (Ajmer and Alwar Lok Sabha seats) and Madhya Pradesh (Kolaras and Mungaoli Assembly seats) gives some indication of this, but the wind blowing across the state may not be as strong as the Opposition parties might believe.

These setbacks for the BJP should ring alarm bells for the party. On the other hand, the Congress should feel happy and upbeat for its success in Rajasthan and MP, and similarly, the regional parties for their win in Bihar and UP. The recent victory would certainly accelerate the process or an effort of forming an anti-BJP alliance, but it may not be as simple as coming to an understanding for two Lok Sabha seats.

An all-India anti-BJP front is unthinkable due to the nature of the state-level contests. After all there are states (Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala, etc.) where these parties who may be willing to come together for an anti-BJP alliance at an all-India level also have to contest the Assembly elections against each other. At best what may seem viable is that the Congress should take the lead in states like MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, etc, where it is in a bipolar contest against the BJP; and smaller regional parties should be ready to give support to the Congress. At the same time, the Congress should be willing to take a backseat in states where regional parties are very strong, even in states like UP or Bihar, and let the regional leaders and parties take the lead for the fight against the BJP. This is easily written on paper than to be worked out on the ground. It is not an easy task to work out this arrangement carefully between various regional parties, as the egos of regional leaders in power for long might come as an obstruction.

What regional parties need to avoid is a situation, which might seem like everyone joining against Mr Modi — Modi vs all. It needs to present the contest in such a way that there are different kinds of contests — Congress vs BJP in many states, and regional parties vs BJP in many other states. What works to the best advantage of the BJP would be to create a situation of a presidential-type election in 2019, where it would try to project the elections like either one is with Mr Modi or against Mr Modi. The Opposition stands to lose if the BJP is successful in making the 2019 election a presidential-type one. What the Opposition needs to do is to avoid that situation as much as possible.

The writer is a professor and currently director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.
The views expressed are personal.

Of 'sharing culture' & 'Russian spies'



Kishwar Desai

London Diary

So the "Beast from the East" is back! And no, despite the jokes doing the rounds these days, I am not talking about Russian President Vladimir Putin, but the snowstorm which has turned London white again. It's been a cold weekend once more, with snow scattered on the trees like little fluffs of cotton, but also an indication of the revival of the Cold War. It is strange, isn't it, how Russia is at the centre of controversies both in the US and the UK?

Perhaps the weather too reflects this with all the talk about "Russian spies" and Russian oligarchs out of favour with the Russian regime who are now living in the UK. This follows two weeks of investigation in Salisbury where a former Russian double agent along with his daughter were nearly bumped off, and were found in a critical condition in a park. Novichok, the deadly chemical used in the murderous attack, was apparently created in Russia, and thus the suspicion points squarely (or so say the experts) to that country. The Russians deny this staunchly and have asked for evidence. This could be a John le Carré novel, or a James Bond film, except that this is real life and we have learnt a lot about modern-day, dangerous chemical warfare. The murder of yet another Russian exile, whom the Russian government wanted extradited, has made others nervous. It is like Russian roulette — literally — as we have also learnt a lot about how many rich Russians have invested in the UK, particularly in London property.

Prime Minister Theresa May's popularity has gone up as she has managed to get this "assault on UK sovereignty" condemned by valuable allies such as Donald Trump, Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel.

But what can the UK really do? It has had the "assault" discussed and condemned at the UN and has expelled 23 diplomats — and in return Russia has expelled 23 and has closed down the British Council. The UK is examining ways of hitting out at those oligarchs who are close to Mr Putin by putting a squeeze on their UK investments. But now there are worries of a cyberattack on the UK, in retaliation.

The most dangerous threat given by the UK so far is that its team may not attend the football World Cup in Russia. The government and the royals have said they are not going… It all looks quite dangerous, but if we were not so used to very similar India-Pakistan rhetoric, I would get worried.

Meanwhile, a lovely event was organised at the House of Lords, for International Women's Day. The idea was to have a proper "parliamentary" debate on the topic of "Press for progress", but at the spectacular Moses Room, where most of the speakers were women of Indian origin. There were 18 of us covering a huge range of subjects — sharing our goals and experiences and hope for the future as well. Organised by Lord and Lady Popat — it gave a wonderful platform for all of us not just to exchange ideas — but to hear about and appreciate those who came from a variety of different professions — many of whom have political ambitions. Some of us also spoke of how the world needs to create a positive environment where more and more women can join the workforce. And here I also pointed out how Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is putting women at the centre of his agenda — through some simple but important steps such as the construction of toilets in India. The debate was energetic and progressive — and while today there are just a handful of women of Indian origin in the UK Parliament — I could see that very soon we have many more representatives!

Does the UK really have a "throwaway" culture? Well, it seems that last year Britons threw away £12.5 billion worth of clothes into the rubbish bin. The study by Wrap, the government's waste advisory body in the UK, said that on an average each person threw away eight items of clothing — and each household chucked out £500 worth of clothes every year. And this is despite the fact that out here there are charity shops on just about every street asking for donated clothes. But it seems that people have just become lazy about donations, which is really a sad state of affairs for the environment as well — as more than 300,000 tonnes of clothes are being deposited each year in the landfills. And then lets look at the amount of food that is wasted. Another survey showed that a shocking 25 million slices of bread is thrown out every day — more than a million per hour. Wrap has said that 69 per cent of people in the age group of 18 to 34 admitted to throwing away bread every week. In India, of course, we always have informal ways of sharing food and clothes within and outside the household — and rarely is anything wasted. But here we need to learn about purchasing only that what we want to use. I think every big store in the UK should have one aisle at least where we place material which can be recycled. If not bread, then other things which may have a longer shelf life, and clothes as well. A "sharing" culture must come back instead of a "throwaway" one.

***Kishwar Desai** is an award-winning author*

The murder of yet another Russian exile, whom the Russian government wanted extradited, has made others nervous. It is like Russian roulette — literally — as we have also learnt a lot about how many rich Russians have invested in the UK, particularly in London property.





Sadguru Rameshji

The divine womb of Shakti

Navaratri is the festival to worship nine forms of *shaktis*, the primordial energy, which is the cause of creation and is the sustainer of the same creation. Shakti is the dynamic aspect of Shiva, the super consciousness.

From Shiva, when the *shakti* manifests to in turn manifest the universe, he takes the form of *Ardhnareshwari,* that is of half male and half female. He projects his two aspects, which were hidden under one broad *Sat Chit Anand* aspect. His male aspect is the static consciousness and the female aspect is dynamic consciousness aspect.

The whole universe is said to be operating in the womb of the divine mother, the *shakti* aspect of Shiva and we are all enjoying our lives within the womb of the divine mother. Even though it appears to us that we are independent entities and operating outside in the universe but yet the fact is that we are within the invisible womb of the mother.

In the womb of the divine mother we are fed through the invisible umbilical cord but we think we feed ourselves through our own mouths. Like a small cell grows into a baby in the nine-month pregnancy of a woman, we also grow from a small baby to an old person within the womb of the divine mother. We are fed, protected, sheltered and eventually merged back in the same mother's womb.

Once, two twin babies in the womb of a mother were talking to each other. First baby asked the second baby as to how she is feeling in the womb and the second baby replied saying she is enjoying her life. The first baby said that after few months we will be out of the womb and we will see light. To this the second baby asked as to what is this coming out and what is light?

The first baby said right now we are inside the womb of our mother and we will be out of this womb wherein we will have independent entity and there will be bright light all around. We will be able to see everything clearly on our own.

The second baby was not convinced as to what there could be anything like outside and inside. She said we are here to live our life and eventually die here itself to this first baby replied that what you think is death, is actually a new birth outside.

Not convinced of this theory of a mother and outside, the second baby said I don't agree to any concept of being inside the womb of a mother and taking birth outside the womb. How can you prove that we are in the womb of a mother and who is taking care of us?

The first baby said, whenever we are calm and peaceful we can hear the mother whispering divine hymns and we can feel her love whenever she touches the womb. But the second baby never had these experienced and seeing her astonished, the first baby made the second baby close her eyes and made her feel the love of the mother and listen to her sweet voice. She was awed with this experience and blissfully acknowledged the presence of a mother in whose womb they were living.

All of us, in the same way, exist and live in the womb of the divine mother. The whole universe operates within the womb of the divine mother. She feeds the universe through her *prakriti,* sustains the universe with her *prana,* loves the universe with her *divya sparsh,* sees the universe with her *divya drishti* and enlightens the souls in the universe with her *divya gyana*.

Whenever we meditate and bring ourselves to a peaceful mode we can feel her *karuna*, listen to her *divya swar and* see her *divya roopa.*

During Navaratri, the divine mother enjoys her blissful state and showers love on all her children. She is ready to forgive her children's misconduct during this period if they pray to her and worship her with pure *bhava.*

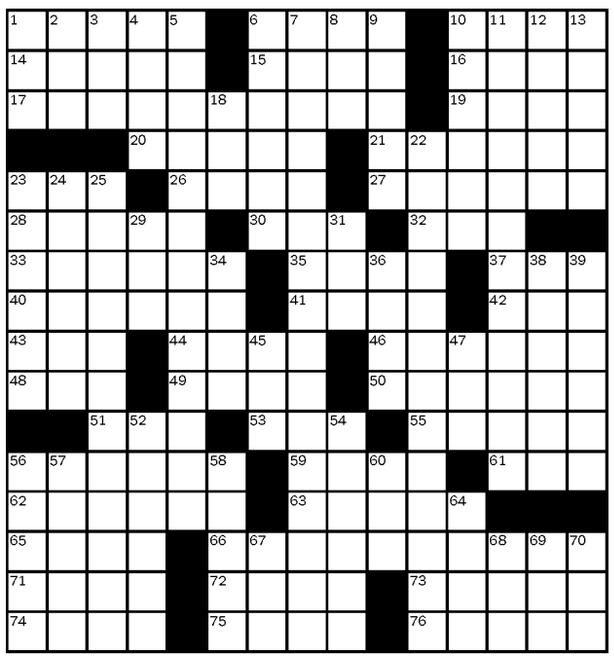
Nine days represent our nine negative aspects such as *kaam, krodh, moh, lobh, ahankar, bhay, irsha, dushmani and vasana.* Winning over these nine negative aspects, the inner *rakshasas,* is the main objective of worshipping the divine mother during Navaratri.

Asatomaa Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrutyorma Amritangamaya.

***Sadguru Rameshji** is a modern age spiritual guru and the force behind Poorna Ananda, a Hyderabad-based centre for spiritual evolution and joyful living. He can be contacted at www.poornaananda.org*

MYSTIC Mantra

THE NYT CROSSWORD



PUZZLE BY JULES P. MARKEY

ACROSS

1 ___ Express (Boston-to-Washington connection)
6 Site of Zeno's teaching
10 Prefix with -logical
14 Close-fitting head covering
15 Congers, e.g.
16 Salmon at a deli
17 Some evidence collected for trials
19 Birdbrain
20 Texting alternative
21 Boatloads
23 Police, informally
26 Part of a doctor's visit
27 Blizzard results
28 Lyrist of myth
30 Lead-in to dog or horse
32 Made a fast stop?
33 Towel
35 Tel ___
37 The works
40 ___ Mae (bond)
41 Scruff
42 Madre's hermana
43 Wall-E's love in "Wall-E"
44 Submarine commander of fiction
46 It's often played before playing
48 Rule, informally
49 Solidify
50 Tranquil
51 "Hurray!"
53 Question before a name is repeated
55 Circuitry connectors
56 Standard equipment on most cars
59 Website with step-by-step tutorials
61 Solidify
62 A little behind
63 Bad-mouth
65 Pasta used in soups and salads
66 Maker's mark?
71 Asian vessels
72 Tolkien character
73 Turkish money
74 Reason to see an ophthalmologist
75 Need for a modern pentathlon
76 High-tech package delivery method

DOWN

1 Do some arithmetic
2 One side of a debate
3 Word after many a president's name
4 Zap, in a way
5 *Baseball, according to some
6 Old photo tones
7 *"A likely story!"
8 "Hurray!"
9 Longtime Syrian strongman
10 Sense
11 Warm winter coat contents … or what is present in the answer to each starred clue?
12 Give the boot
13 Vows
18 Upper limit, for short
22 *Dystopian novel set in the year 2540
23 Book that a bookkeeper keeps
24 Achieve great success
25 *Sports legend who was an M.V.P. for eight consecutive seasons
29 Boatload
31 Director DuVernay
34 Sense
36 Hoppy brews
38 Mortgagor, e.g.
39 Unlikeliest to be bought
45 Do some lawn work
47 Grueling Olympic race, for short
52 Melodic
54 "Now that makes sense!"
56 Retards
57 Deck with 78 cards
58 Its symbol is ORD
60 Elect (to)
64 Genre for "Chinatown" or "The Big Sleep"
67 Whelp
68 One side of a debate
69 Solo on the silver screen
70 Cornell-to-Yale dir.

A	D	I	O	S	■	B	A	D	P	R	■	Z	I	N
R	O	C	H	E	■	A	L	I	E	N	■	E	R	A
K	T	O	W	N	■	S	A	S	S	A	F	R	A	S
S	E	N	E	S	C	E	N	C	E	■	I	O	T	A
■	■	■	L	E	O	■	■	S	T	E	N	G	E	L
L	O	L	L	I	P	O	P	■	A	H	I	■	■	■
E	M	O	■	■	S	A	I	D	■	O	T	T	O	I
F	O	U	R	L	E	T	T	E	R	W	O	R	D	S
T	O	T	E	S	■	H	O	M	E	■	■	O	D	E
■	■	■	H	A	T	■	N	O	N	S	E	N	S	E
S	W	E	A	T	E	R	■	■	A	L	A	■	■	■
O	H	M	S	■	T	A	T	T	L	E	T	A	L	E
R	E	C	H	E	R	C	H	E	■	A	S	C	O	T
T	E	E	■	P	I	K	E	S	■	Z	U	M	B	A
A	L	E	■	A	S	S	E	T	■	E	P	E	E	S



Former US President John F. Kennedy's personal 'victory map' of Cuba may fetch $20k at auction

Putin eyes fourth term as Russians go to polls

18 yrs at helm, ex-KGB agent to extend term beyond 2024

FROM PAGE 1

Most people who spoke to AFP said they voted for Putin, praising him for lifting the country out of the post-Soviet quagmire.

"Of course I'm for Putin, he's a leader," said Olga Matyunina, a 65-year-old retired economist. "After he brought Crimea back, he became a hero to me."

Sunday marks four years since Putin signed a treaty declaring Crimea to be part of Russia in a move that triggered a pro-Kremlin insurgency in east Ukraine, a conflict that has claimed over 10,000 lives.

At many polling stations the atmosphere was festive, with patriotic songs blasting out of speakers, cheap food available to voters and entertainers organising games for children. But Navalny, who risks 30 days in jail for organising illegal protests, urged a boycott.

"We do not recognise these elections," he said, claiming turnout was being rigged. Navalny has deployed more than 33,000 observers, with his team branding the vote "a staged procedure to reappoint Putin".

"Those who said there would be fewer falsifications during these elections because Putin has already won over everyone have made a mistake." Navalny's team and non-government election monitor Golos reported ballot stuffing and multiple voting, with voters also being bussed to polling booths against the law.

"I will not go to vote. What for?" Boris Limarev, a 39-year-old manager, said as he walked his dog near a polling station in Saint Petersburg.

"It's clear to everyone who will be elected."

"And the rest of the candidates are clowns," interjected his wife Anna, 35.

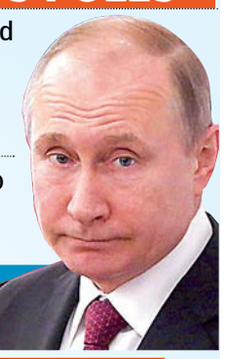
"Another six years of slavery," said a piece of paper made up to look like a ballot which was spotted on a Moscow street - in an apparent reference to Putin's next term.

Ahead of the poll, a new crisis broke out with the West as Britain implicated Putin in the poisoning of former double agent Sergei Skripal with a Soviet-designed nerve agent.

—AFP

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN RUSSIA'S POLLS

- Putin sought to use the election run-up to emphasise Russia's role as a major world power boasting of its "invincible" new weapons
- Many Russians say they would vote for Putin simply because they do not see an alternative, given his chokehold on domestic politics.
- Overall turnout is expected to be between 63 and 67 percent, according to official pollsters.



Last year opposition leader Alexei Navalny called tens of thousands of mainly young Russians out onto the street for protests against Putin.

THE WORLD'S LONGEST-SERVING LEADERS



49 years: Fidel Castro of Cuba till 2008



47 years: Chiang Kai-shek, Taiwan's first president, till 1975

46 years: Kim Il Sung, North Korean founder, till 1994



42 years: Moamer Kadhafi, Libya, till 2011

41 years: Omar Bongo Ondimba, Gabon, till 2009

40 years: Enver Hoxha, Albania's Communist dictator, till 1985 Still counting



38 years: Teodoro Obiang Nguema, Equatorial Guinea

35 years: Cameroon's President Paul Biya



34 years: Congo President Denis Sassou (with 5 year pause)

33 years: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen

29 years: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

"I said withdraw because to announce to the world and I will convince everybody now who (is) under ICC: get out, get out



— Rodrigo Duterte, Philippine President

IN BRIEF

1 killed in shooting at California mall

Thousand Oaks: Authorities say one person was killed and one injured after a shooting at a Southern California mall. The Ventura County sheriff's department said on Twitter that the incident has been contained and there's no threat to the public. The injured has been moved to a hospital the fire department said. Authorities said thay have set up a safety zone across the street.

Homes razed as bushfires rage in Oz

Melbourne: Homes were razed, cattle killed and large swathes of land burnt on Sunday as bush and grass fires rage in Australia amid hot and blustery conditions, with residents fleeing flame-filled red skies. Dozens of blazes in western and south-western Victoria state began on Saturday and a change in wind direction early on Sunday worsened the situation. Some 40,000 hectares have been damaged, said Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley.

IMF chief warns against trade wars

BUENOS AIRES, March 18, 2018 (AFP) - International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde cautioned the United States against putting up barriers to trade in an interview published Sunday. "Trade wars leave no winners," she said in the interview with Argentine daily La Nacion, responding to a question about President Donald Trump's decision to slap tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

Hunt on for giant yellow duck

Perth: An Australian swimming club is appealing for ocean watchers to find their giant yellow inflatable duck Daphne, after the mascot was blown into the Indian Ocean with reported sightings hundreds of kilometres from where it was launched. The duck, owned by Cockburn Masters Swimming Club, was last seen at Perth's Coogee Beach in the early hours of March 11 as organisers prepared for a carnival. Club president Peter Marr said he tried to swim after Daphne, which is the size of a caravan, but it was moving too fast. "I probably overestimated my ability and underestimated Daphne's hunger for freedom and she just bolted," Marr told the ABC on Saturday.

GARBAGE CLEARED OFF GALAPAGOS

Quito, March 18: Officials at Ecuador's Galapagos National Park say they have collected 22 tonnes of garbage since January off the coasts of the pristine archipelago, some of it from as far away as Asia.

The coastal garbage cleanup is aimed at studying "the possible arrival of invasive species in the waste swept in by the ocean currents," the Park said in a statement late Saturday.

The Galapagos, the Pacific archipelago of volcanic islands that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, are located about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) off the coast of Ecuador.

The bulk of the garbage reaches the island shores "from the coasts of Central and South America, and even from the Asian continent," the statement said. The national park, created in 1959, protects 97 percent of the islands' land surface. The Galapagos has an especially high concentration of endemic species, including giant tortoises and penguins.

— AFP

INDIA, U.S. TALKS POSTPONED: U.S. OFFICIAL

Washington, March 18: The first Indo-US two-plus-two dialogue has been postponed due to uncertainty over the confirmation of Mike Pompeo as the new Secretary of State, an American official said after US President Donald Trump fired Rex Tillerson.

The two-day dialogue, announced last summer when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a successful meeting with President Trump at the White House, was tentatively scheduled for April 18-19.

"It has been postponed for now," an informed US official said.

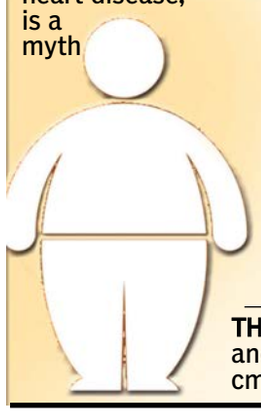
The official wishing anonymity, however, quickly pointed out that it would have no impact on the bilateral relationship as the meetings this week by the foreign and defence secretaries decided to continue with their agenda.

There was no official announcement of the high-level dialogue involving the foreign and defence ministers from the two countries.

India's foreign and defence secretaries were here early this week for preparatory talks with their American counterparts. The Indian delegation landed in Washington DC amidst the firing of Tillerson as the Secretary of State by Trump. *— PTI*

OBESITY DANGER REAL

300,000 people studied to find Obesity paradox, the idea that overweight people are not always at increased risk of heart disease, is a myth



A BMI beyond 22-23 increases the risk of heart and blood vessel problems, such as heart attacks, strokes and high BP as per a research published in European Heart Journal

THE RISK also increases steadily the more fat a person carries around their waist.

THE UK Biobank study was conducted on adults of white European descent, who were healthy at the time they enrolled.

THE STUDY subjects were recruited from 2006 to 2010, and follow-up data on participants were available up to 2015 for this latest analysis.

PEOPLE WITH a BMI between 22-23 had the lowest risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD).

AS BMI increased above 22, the risk of CVD increased by 13 per cent for every 5.2 increase in women and 4.3 in men.

THE CVD risk increased by 16 per cent in women and 10 per cent in men for every 12.6 cm and 11.4 cm increase in waist girth for women and men.

US wants Pak to do more against terror groups

Washington, March 18: The US has told Pakistan that it "must do more" against Taliban and other terror groups operating in the country, warning that the Trump administration is ready to take unilateral measures if Islamabad failed to stop cross-border attacks from its soil.

The warning, given at a news briefing on Saturday, followed the meeting between US Vice President Mike Pence and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Pakistani daily *Dawn* reported.

THE WARNING came at meet between US Vice-President Mike Pence and Pakistan's premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

Abbasi, who was on a personal trip to see his ailing sister in the US, met Pence at the US Naval Observatory, the vice president's official residence.

The meeting was held on Saturday at the request of Abbasi. The White House in a statement about the meeting said, "Vice President Pence reiterated Pres-ident Trump's request that Pakistan must do more to address the continued presence of the Taliban, Haqqani Network, and other terrorist groups operating in their country." "The VP stated that US efforts to eliminate terrorist groups will continue," the White House said. *— PTI*

NATURAL | PRECISION

Next gen telescopes to generate data, know where edge of galaxy lies

Study finds galaxies spin like clockwork

Melbourne, March 18: All galaxies, no matter how big they are, rotate once every billion years, astronomers have discovered.

The Earth spinning around on its axis once gives us the length of a day, and a complete orbit of the Earth around the Sun gives us a year.

"It's not Swiss watch precision. But regardless of whether a galaxy is very big or very small, if you could sit on the extreme edge of its disk as it spins, it would take you about a billion years to go all the way round," said Gerhardt Meurer, from of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) in Australia.

By using simple maths, you can show all galaxies of the same size have the same average interior density.

"Discovering such regularity in galaxies really helps us to better understand the mechanics that make them tick — you won't find a dense galaxy rotating quickly, while another with the same size but lower density is rotating more slowly," Meurer said. Researchers also found evidence of older stars exiting out to the edge of galaxies.

"Based on existing models, we expected to find a thin population of young stars at the very edge of the galactic disks we studied," Meurer said.

"But instead of finding just gas and newly formed stars at the edges of their disks, we also found a significant population of older stars along with the thin smattering of young stars and interstellar gas," he said.

"This is an important result because knowing where a galaxy ends means we astronomers can limit our observations and not waste time, effort and computer processing power on studying data from beyond that point," said Meurer. "We now know that galaxies rotate once every billion years, with a sharp edge that's populated with a mixture of interstellar gas, with both old and young stars," he said.

The next generation of radio telescopes, like the soon-to-be-built Square Kilometre Array (SKA), will generate enormous amounts of data, and knowing where the edge of a galaxy lies will reduce the processing power needed to search through the data.

PTI

FOLLOW THE NUMBERS



- By using simple maths, you can show all galaxies of the same size have the same average interior density.
- Researchers also found evidence of older stars exiting out to the edge of galaxies.
- Knowing where the edge of a galaxy lies will reduce the processing power to search through data.

4 DIE IN MANILA HOTEL FIRE



Heavy smoke engulfs the Waterfront Manila Pavilion building, after a fire broke out at the hotel and casino complex in Manila on Sunday. Four people were killed and 19 feared trapped in the major hotel fire in the Philippine capital Manila, with others plucked from the rooftop by helicopter, authorities said. *— AFP*

Trump attacks fairness of 'Dem-filled' Mueller team

Washington, March 18: US President Donald Trump on Sunday attacked special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russia's election meddling as unfair, insisting the probe is staffed with "hardened" Democrats.

"Does anyone think this is fair? And yet, there is NO COLLUSION!" Trump tweeted.

The salvo was the latest in an intensifying confrontation over Mueller's probe into whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russian attempts to sway the 2016 election in his favour.

The President also took aim at former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe, who was fired on Friday two days before he was due to retire, and former FBI director James Comey, who Trump sacked last year over the Russia probe.

Until now, the president has steered clear of directly attacking Mueller, the former FBI director who took over the Russia probe after Comey's firing May 9, 2017. "Why does the Mueller team have 13 hardened Democrats, some big Crooked Hillary supporters, and Zero Republicans? Another Democrat recently added," Trump said.

Widely respected in both political camps, Mueller was appointed FBI chief by the Republican president George W. Bush, and kept on under the Democrat Barack Obama.

Lawmakers have repeatedly warned that any attempt to oust him as special counsel would cross a red line. *— AFP*

FB OUSTS FIRM HARVESTING 50MN US VOTERS' PROFILES

Washington, March 17: Facebook said it suspended the account of Cambridge Analytica, the data analysis firm hired by Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, after reports it harvested profile information of millions of US voters without their permission.

According to the *NYT* and Britain's *Observer,* the firm stole information from Facebook users' profiles to help design software to predict and influence voters' choices. Also suspended were its parent organisation, Strategic Communication Laboratories, and University of Cambridge psychologist Aleksandr Kogan and Christopher Wylie, who runs Eunoia Technologies.

— AFP

Cyberattack alert sounded in Britain

London, March 18: Britain's banks, energy and water companies are all said to be on high alert against the threat of a possible Russian cyberattack amid an escalating diplomatic row between the two countries over the poisoning of a former Russian double agent on British soil.

Meanwhile, officers from Britain's Special Branch of intelligence and security services are investigating death threats against another Russian dissident living in UK, who has received a series of threatening emails linking his fate to Skripal.

Valery Morozov, 63, who claimed political asylum in the UK after blowing the whistle on Kremlin corruption, received a series of emails last week, warning: They came for Sergei, they will come for you.

According to *The Sunday Times*, Morozov received threats from an anonymous encrypted email address and immediately reported them to Surrey police. When he did not reply, Morozov received a second email, warning: Do you not care what will happen to you? Waiting for your confirmation. Scotland Yard issued a renewed appeal for information on sighting a burgundy red BMW owned by 66-year-old Skripal. *— PTI*

RUSSIA HINTS NERVE AGENT FROM UK LAB

London, March 18: Russia's ambassador to the EU suggested a nerve agent that poisoned a former spy in England could have come from a UK lab.

Vladimir Chizhov says Russia has no chemical weapons stockpiles.

In comments broadcast Sunday, Chizhov told the BBC that the UK chemical weapons research facility, Porton Down, is only 12 kilometres from Salisbury, where the Skripals were found.

— PTI



Li Keqiang

CHINA PREMIER RE-ELECTED FOR 2ND 5-YR TERM

Beijing, March 18: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, the No. 2 leader of the Communist Party, was on Sunday re-elected for a second five-year tenure by China's rubber-stamp Parliament, a day after Xi Jinping was re-appointed as the president with no limits on the number of terms he can serve.

Li, 62, who was nominated on behalf of Xi, was re-appointed with 2,964 votes in favour and two against during the annual session of the National People's Congress at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

Li maintained a low profile under the Chinese president mainly looking after the country's economy as Xi consolidated power and surrounded himself with powerful aides.

Li completed the first five-year tenure along with Xi who is now regarded as the "core" leader of the party placed along with party founder Mao Zedong.

Xi, 64, was on Saturday re-elected unanimously by 2,970 deputies of the NPC, days after it ratified constitutional amendment to remove the decades old two-term limit for the president and vice-president posts.

He was also re-elected as the Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) which is the overall high command of the two million strong Chinese military, the world's largest.

Xi's loyalist and close confidant Wang Qishan was elected as vice president. *— PTI*



Xiaomi launches smart Mi Body Composition Scale in Indian market

IN BRIEF



German bank calls for regulations on cryptocurrency

GERNOT HELLER
BERLIN, MARCH 18

Regulation of cryptocurrencies must be considered, Bundesbank vice president Claudia Buch told Reuters, even though she does not believe they pose a threat to financial stability. Buch said that speculation on volatile virtual tokens does not pose a systemic threat because it is not financed through credit, but she said that regulators should look at introducing rules to protect consumers, given that such speculation could prove costly for investors. "The role of crypto tokens in money laundering and criminal activity must also be closely examined," Buch said. "I don't see a threat for financial stability at the moment as the speculations are generally not financed with loans and the relevant markets are rather small." The issue of how to regulate cryptocurrencies is likely to be high on the agenda at a March 19-20 meeting of Group of 20 finance leaders in Argentina. International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde has urged governments and central banks to develop regulations for such assets to prevent them from becoming a new vehicle for money laundering and terrorist financing. Japan has also urged its G20 partners to act on preventing cryptocurrencies from becoming a vehicle to finance criminal activities.
— Reuters



Inverter ACs with nano technology launched

Panasonic has launched its new range of inverter air conditioners, inbuilt with its patented air purification system called nano technology that claims to actively remove PM2.5 and airborne particles giving up to 99 per cent clean air. Its air purifying nano technology uses nano-sized electrostatic atomised water particles to deodorise, inhibit bacteria and virus growth, remove dust and 99 per cent of PM2.5 to purify the air in the room even when the cooling function of the air-con is turned off. The three-stage purification system ensures pure and healthy air. In Panasonic Air Conditioners, after reaching a set temperature, the Aerowings twin blades direct air towards the ceiling to create a 'Shower Cooling effect'. This ensures that cool air is evenly distributed throughout the room. It helps to prevent the experience of symptoms such as head & body aches, congestion, fatigue caused by a continuous direct cool draught. The variants' features also include faster cooling, durability and power saving performance. With this launch, Panasonic will also be showcasing the inverter range 'AERO SERIES' which comes with Aeroslim design, iAuto X feature for faster cooling and ECONAVI Sensors which claims to reduce energy wastage up to 65 per cent. The new 'Air-Purifying' inverter air conditioners are available at all retail outlets from a starting price of ₹39,000 to ₹72,000 and in 0.8T, 1.0T, 1.5T, 2.0T variants.

WhatsApp for Android now lets you add group info



If you are an Android user, you must have noticed that the latest WhatsApp update brings something by the name Group Descriptions in the PlayStore

WhatsApp has always been evolving with new features and updates since its inception, the Facebook-owned real-time messenger platform has gained a lot of features — some of which have made it an indispensable app for every smartphone user. However, there's good news once again for Android users as WhatsApp has released several new features that were limited to its Beta release for the platform.

If you are an Android user, you must have noticed that the latest WhatsApp update brings something by the name Group Descriptions in its expanded feature list on the PlayStore. As the name suggests, Group Description now allows participants in a group to write a description about the objective of that group. The idea is to educate new participants about the group while adding them. Anybody in the group can edit the description and anybody can view it once someone opens the group information page. The description can be 512-characters long.

However, that's not the only addition to the humble free-to-use messenger. Android users can now enjoy the same benefits as their iOS counterparts when it comes to searching for a particular participant within a group. Users can now search for any group member by tapping on the search icon present on top of the Group Info screen.

Apart from that, Android users can now also switch effortlessly from voice to video calls without putting down the call. Users will now see a new button during a voice call that will allow them to switch to a video call at the tap of a button.

These new features are now available as part of an update to WhatsApp for Android. If you haven't received the update yet, keep checking for new updates on the PlayStore app update screen or register yourself for Beta.

FB critics want regulation, probe after data misuse

DAVID INGRAM
SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 18



Facebook faced new calls for regulation from within US Congress and was hit with questions about personal data safeguards on Saturday after reports a political consultant gained inappropriate access to 50 million users' data starting in 2014.

Facebook disclosed the issue in a blog post on Friday, hours before media reports that conservative-leaning Cambridge Analytica, a data company known for its work on Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, was given access to the data and may not have deleted it.

The scrutiny presented a new threat to Facebook's reputation, which was already under attack over Russians' alleged use of Facebook tools to sway American voters before and after the 2016 U.S. elections.

"It's clear these platforms can't police themselves," Democratic U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar tweeted.

"They say 'trust us.' Mark Zuckerberg needs to testify before Senate Judiciary," she added, referring to Facebook's CEO and a committee she sits on.

Facebook said the root of the problem was that researchers and Cambridge Analytica lied to it and abused its policies, but critics on Saturday threw blame at Facebook as well, demanding answers on behalf of users and calling for new regulation.

Facebook insisted the data was misused but not stolen, because users gave permission, sparking a debate about what constitutes a hack that must be disclosed to customers.

"The lid is being opened on the black box of Facebook's data practices, and the picture is not pretty," said Frank Pasquale, a University of Maryland law professor who has written about Silicon Valley's use of data.

Pasquale said Facebook's response that data had not technically been stolen seemed to obfuscate the central issue that data was apparently used in a way contrary to the expectations of users.

"It amazes me that they are trying to make this about nomenclature. I guess that's all they have left," he said.

Democratic US Senator Mark Warner said the episode bolstered the need for new regulations about internet advertising, describing the industry as the "Wild West."

"Whether it's allowing Russians to purchase political ads, or extensive micro-targeting based on ill-gotten user data, it's clear that, left unregulated, this market will continue to be prone to deception and lacking in transparency," he said.

With Republicans controlling the Senate's majority, though, it was not clear if Klobuchar and Warner would prevail.

The New York Times and *London's Observer* reported on Saturday that private information from more than 50 million Facebook users improperly ended up in the hands of Cambridge Analytica, and the information has not been deleted despite Facebook's demands beginning in 2015.

Some 270,000 people allowed use of their data by a researcher, who scraped the data of all their friends as well, a move allowed by Facebook until 2015. The researcher sold the data to Cambridge, which was against Facebook rules, the newspapers said.

Cambridge Analytica worked on Trump's 2016 campaign. A Trump campaign official said, though, that it used Republican data sources, not Cambridge Analytica, for its voter information.

Facebook, in a series of written statements beginning late on Friday, said its policies had been broken by Cambridge Analytica and researchers and that it was exploring legal action.

Cambridge Analytica in turn said it had deleted all the data and that the company supplying it had been responsible for obtaining it.

Andrew Bosworth, a Facebook vice president, hinted the company could make more changes to demonstrate it values privacy. "We must do better and will," he wrote on Twitter, adding that "our business depends on it at every level." Facebook said it asked for the data to be deleted in 2015 and then relied on written certifications by those involved that they had complied.

Nuala O'Connor, president of the Center for Democracy & Technology, an advocacy group in Washington, D.C., said Facebook was relying on the good will of decent people rather than preparing for intentional misuse.

Moreover, she found it puzzling that Facebook knew about the abuse in 2015 but did not disclose it until Friday. "That's a long time," she said. Britain's data protection authority and the Massachusetts attorney general on Saturday said they were launching investigations into the use of Facebook data.
— Reuters

Microsoft hits back at claims it ignored sexual harassment



A senior executive said Microsoft Corp thoroughly investigates issues raised by women in the workplace and fired about 20 employees last year over complaints of sexual harassment as the company seeks to counter claims that it treats female workers unfairly. In an email to employees publicly released, Microsoft Chief People Officer Kathleen Hogan said Microsoft had 83 harassment complaints in 2017 out of a US-based workforce of more than 65,000 employees.

Nearly 50 per cent were found to be supported at least in part following an investigation, she said, and more than half of those resulted in the termination of an employee who engaged in unacceptable behaviour.

The unusual publication of such data comes as the world's largest software company is defending a lawsuit which alleges it systematically denied pay raises or promotions to women. Microsoft denies it has ever had such a policy.

The lawsuit, filed in Seattle federal court in 2015, is attracting wider attention after a series of powerful men have left or been fired from their jobs in entertainment, the media and politics for sexual misconduct. Microsoft also investigated 84 complaints of gender discrimination last year, Ms Hogan said and found around 10 per cent of those to be supported at least in part.

Earlier this week, *Reuters* reported on the contents of unsealed court documents, which showed that out of 118 gender discrimination complaints filed by women in US-based technical jobs at Microsoft between 2010 and 2016, only one was deemed "founded" by the company. Attorneys for the women described the number of complaints as "shocking" in the court filings, and said the response by Microsoft's investigations team was "lacklustre." Ms Hogan's email linked to the *Reuters* story and said the numbers cited by plaintiffs were misleading. "Reports that we rarely reach a conclusion in favour of the complainant are based on a faulty reading of a partial data set," she wrote. Her email didn't provide additional figures about the time period cited in the court documents. The plaintiffs based their numbers on documents disclosed by Microsoft during pre-trial discovery in the lawsuit. Kelly Dermody, an attorney for the plaintiffs, declined to comment on Ms Hogan's email.

Alaina Percival, chief executive of Women Who Code, an organisation that helps companies increase their number of women developers, said publicly releasing this kind of data can help businesses learn from each other about the best ways to handle sexual harassment and gender discrimination.
— Reuters

People pay for positive image on social media, claims study

London, March 18: How far would you go to portray a positive image on social media? A study suggests that many people are prepared to pay to "filter out" unfavourable information about themselves.

Participants took part in a cooperative situation with an anonymous person, earning real money during the experiment. They could be "good" and cooperate a lot, which was costly, or be less cooperative, which costs less.

They then found out that information about how much they actually cooperated could be published online along with their name, but that they could avoid this publication if they paid to censor the information.

It turned out that those who cooperated less, valued the censorship highest which meant that information about this group's actions tended to be filtered out.

"That the image people share of themselves is 'softened' on the internet is perhaps not that surprising. What is new is that this is shown under experimental control and that the will to 'filter out' is so strong that one is prepared to pay for it," said Hakan Holm from Lund University in Sweden.
— PTI

NEW 3D PRINTERS COULD SAVE LIVES IN WAR ZONES

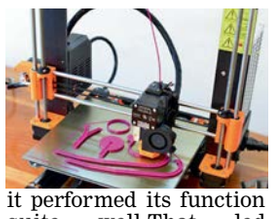
Toronto, March 18: Physicians in remote parts of the world can now 3D print a clinically validated stethoscope with recycled plastic, thanks to scientists who have designed a device template that could save lives during wartime when medical supplies are scarce. "As far as we know, this is the first open-source medical device that has been clinically validated and is widely available," said

Tarek Loubani, associate professor at University of Western Ontario in Canada.

Prof Loubani spent time working as a physician in hospitals in Gaza during wartime when medical supplies were scarce.

"We wanted physicians and health care professionals to be able to have something that was high quality. This study found that the acoustic quality was the same in our stethoscope as in a premium brand stethoscope," he said.

The idea to 3D print a stethoscope was born, while playing with a toy stethoscope and noticing



it performed its function quite well.That led researchers to design an open-access template for a 3D printed stethoscope that could be created using recycled plastic.

The stethoscope, called the Glia model, was made using free open source software to keep costs low and allow others to easily access the code. With the Glia template, the stethoscope can be made in less than three hours and costs $3 to produce.

Anyone with a 3D printer and access to ABS — a plastic used to make garden chairs and Lego — can create the device.

"Use of the open source approach in every aspect of this project contributes powerfully to the body of medical device research," said Gabriella Coleman, noted scholar on technology and open source software.
— PTI

Internet transforms healthcare in rural Pakistan

SAJJAD TARAKZAI
BHOSA MANSEHRA, MARCH 18

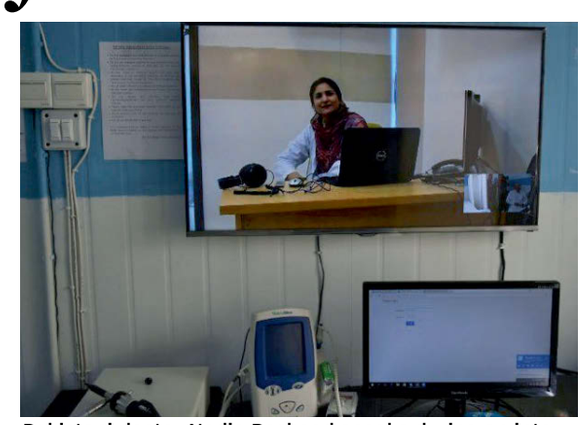
In a remote Pakistani village surrounded by lush green hills, Mohammad Fayyaz brings his two-year-old son to a clinic so that a female doctor sitting hundreds of kilometres away can examine him.

Healthcare in rural Pakistan and the careers of women doctors are being revolutionised as internet access grows across the country, allowing people with limited mobility because of geography or culture to interact online.

Previously, Fayyaz would have had to travel for hours from his village of Bhosa, in northern Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, only to spend hours queuing at overcrowded clinics in cities like Abbottabad or Peshawar for medical help.

Women doctors more than 1,500 kilometres (930 miles) to the south in the port of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, face their own challenges, with their careers often put on ice once they marry and become mothers in the conservative, patriarchal country.

Now, a Karachi-based health tech startup, Sehat Kahani, has deployed Skype to help solve both problems at once by bringing work to the doctors and medical advice to the villages.



Pakistani doctor Nadia Rasheed speaks during an interview on skype at a telemedicine online treatment centre run by the government of Khyber Pakhtukhwa.
— AFP

"My son took just one dose of medicine and he feels much better now," Fayyaz told AFP after paying a nominal fee of 100 rupees (90 cents) to visit the Sehat Kahani clinic in his village and speak face-to-face via video conferencing to a doctor in Karachi.

Convenience is everything in a place where women must walk for miles to fetch water from a spring and power cuts can last up to 12 hours a day, the low hum of generators a constant backdrop to village life.

The remote doctors offer a fresh solution to Pakistan's struggling healthcare sector. The country has one of the world's highest infant mortality rates and just 0.5-0.8 percent of its GDP has been spent on the health sector in the past decade.

helpful, particularly for female patients because it is close to all of us," Fayyaz says."That's why I am here," agrees Bibi Mehrunisa, one of the many women clustered in the clinic's waiting room, some with children in tow.

MARRIAGE VS CAREER

It's also important for the women on the computer screens.

At her Karachi home, doctor Benish Ehsan was multitasking, caring for her child as he sat on her lap, even as she began her online examination of a young patient in Bhosa.

"Is he using the bathroom, has the vomiting stopped or not?" she asks through the computer screen, advising the worried mother to feed her child more fruit and vegetables. "He has lost some weight, so I am prescribing some medicines for that too," she says.

Later, speaking to AFP, Ehsan says the programme is empowering for stay-at-home mothers who also happen to be doctors, like her.

"It suits us, we don't need to go outside and can continue our practice even sitting at home," she says. "We are enjoying our family life and can also take care of patients."

Raheel Tanvir, a Sehat Kahani representative at the clinic in Bhosa, says 80 per cent of women doctors quit the profession after they get married.
— AFP

This legislative reality has, in effect, led to a deep fissure in the banking regulatory terrain



— Urjit Patel, RBI governor

BROKERS BYTES

NBCC gets buy from Kotak

NBCC (India) Ltd, a Navratna public sector unit with a major presence in project management consultancy space in building segment, is focusing on execution of its order book. In the last four years (from financial year 2015-2018E), the company has grown its order book by four times to ₹80,000 crore, which gives strong revenue growth visibility for the next five years. On the other hand, the revenue has grown less than 1.5 times in the same period. The company is focusing on execution and expects strong revenue growth in FY19 as most of the redevelopment projects would contribute meaningfully in the year. The state-owned company has begun work on ₹10,000 crore of new projects in the past six months months, which will be completed in the next two years. Further, it has strong pipeline of new projects from development of railways land, armed forces land, and Dharavi among others, which would support its future order book.

Broking firm: Kotak Securities
Rating: Buy
Closing price: ₹200.30

Parag Milk gets buy from JM Fin

Parag Milk Foods (Parag) has created a well-diversified product portfolio and firmly established its brands in the Indian dairy industry. This has helped it become the second largest cheese player in the country, boosting its value-added products (VAP) business to 66 per cent of revenue and aiding a 567 basis points gross profit margin expansion over the past 3 years. With rising consumer demand, a strong culture of innovation, robust brand portfolio and disruption effects (GST and Demonetisation) now behind, the brokerage expects growth trajectory to improve after a subdued performance over the past 15-18 months. The company is also expected to be cash-generative in the next 2-3 years as a significant part of expansion capex is now out of the way.

Broking firm: JM Financial
Rating: Buy
Closing price: ₹278

SHRIRAM TRANSPORT GETS BUY TAG

Shriram Transport Finance (SHTF) should benefit from stronger commercial vehicle (CV) volumes, ticket size inflation and focus on widening distribution. Despite rising bond yields, net interest margins (NIMs) should be broadly stable, given stronger pricing power in niche used CV segment, stable funding cost. Asset quality could improve and credit costs could fall driving 34 per cent EPS CAGR and 430 basis points return on equity (ROE) expansion over FY18-20. The brokerage expects expect strong growth in CV markets to sustain led by macro revival, pick up in infrastructure and construction before 2019 elections, stricter enforcement of overloading norms and likely pre-buying before shift to BS VI emission norms in 2020. Last mile logistics need led by e-commerce should also contribute to LCV demand. Besides stronger CV volumes, the average ticket size should also rise due to ongoing shift to higher tonnage CVs and rise in new CV prices due to emission norm changes.

Broking firm: Jefferies
Rating: Buy
Closing price: ₹1,446.90



INVESTING WHEN THE STOCK MARKETS CRASH

WITH THE 2017 BULL RUN TAPERING OFF THIS YEAR. INVESTORS MUST REASSESS THEIR INVESTMENTS AS PER RISK PROFILE

■ **Money talk**
Adhil Shetty

The stock markets have had a great run in recent years. A bull run that began around March 2016, tripped briefly by the demonetisation, carried on till January 2018, at which point the government announced a new tax on Long Term Capital Gains. During this run of two years, equity investors made tremendous gains, while several new investors were introduced to the benefits of mutual fund investing. Now, with the bulls taking a breather, what must equity investors do? How should you invest when markets recede? Here are a few thoughts to consider.

REMAIN INVESTED

If you are not in a hurry to pull your money out from your equity investments, you must remain invested. Increase your planned investment tenure. Many experts believe 2018 would be a rough ride, and it would not be wise to expect a repeat of the brilliant gains made in 2017. However, this period of volatility would also end. Therefore, remain invested till the next spurt of growth.

MUTUAL FUNDS SAFER

If you are not an expert stock picker, investing in equity via mutual funds should be the way to go for you. A typical fund portfolio is hedged against various market risks. You would have seen some banking stocks fall by large margins — as much 50 per cent recently. But you won't see a mutual fund fall by that much in a short span of time because its exposure to individual stocks is restricted.

IF YOUR PORTFOLIO HAS A LARGE EXPOSURE TO SUCH RISKY BETS, YOU MAY WANT TO REEVALUATE YOUR EXPOSURE

CONTINUE YOUR SIPS

If you have been investing in equity via mutual fund Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs), well done. This is your opportunity to make the best of a receding market by continuing to invest. Your recent investments would have lost a bit of value in recent months. This should not worry you. You have a fund manager to manage your portfolio expertly to cut your losses and find avenues for growth. So continue your SIPs. With your fund manager's expertise and the markets hopefully rising again in the near future, your fund will start growing again.

EVALUATE PORTFOLIO RISK

In the equity market, there are graded levels of risk you can take. Mid-cap and small-cap investments are considered riskier than large-cap ones. When riskier stocks or mutual funds loaded with such stocks crash, they tend to crash harder. If your portfolio has a large exposure to such risky bets, you may want to reevaluate it. If you wish to hold on to these investments, give yourself a longer term to better overcome the periodic corrections.

LOWER AVERAGING COSTS

If you wish to continue betting on your favourite stocks or mutual funds, a market crash presents great opportunities to reduce your rupee average costs. Basically, when you buy your favourite stock or mutual fund at a lower cost, you reduce your average purchase price. When the price rises again, buying at lower prices give you higher profit margins compared to when you don't reduce your averages (Refer to table).

BOOK LOSSES

If you are in need of cash and want to liquidate your equity assets while they are in the red, you can still cash out and book losses. Your capital losses can be set off against capital gains to reduce your taxable income. If the losses can't be set off in one fiscal year, they can be carried forward for up to eight subsequent years.

(The writer is CEO, BankBazaar.com)



WHEN YOU DON'T AVERAGE IN A FALLING MARKET*

Investment Date	Amount Invested	Total Amount Invested	Stock Price / MF NAV	Units Purchased	Total Units Held	Average Price	Investment Value	Gains/Losses	Gains %
Sep-17	1000	1000	50	20.00	20.00	50.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00%
Dec-17	1000	2000	55	18.18	38.18	52.38	2100.00	100.00	5.00%
Feb-18	1000	3000	50	20.00	58.18	51.56	2909.09	-90.91	-3.03%
Mar-18	1000	4000	55	18.18	76.36	52.38	4200.00	200.00	5.00%

WHEN YOU AVERAGE IN A FALLING MARKET*

Investment Date	Amount Invested	Total Amount Invested	Stock Price / MF NAV	Units Purchased	Total Units Held	Average Price	Investment Value	Gains/Losses	Gains %
Sep-17	1000	1000	50	20.00	20.00	50.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00%
Dec-17	1000	2000	55	18.18	38.18	52.38	2100.00	100.00	5.00%
Feb-18	5000	7000	50	100.00	138.18	50.66	6909.09	-90.91	-1.30%
Mar-18	1000	8000	55	18.18	156.36	51.16	8600.00	600.00	7.50%

** all figures in the above table are assumed for the sake of illustration.*



■ **Tax matters**
Kamal Rathi

Zakat is not tax deductible

Q I am a senior citizen aged 62 years without income. In April 1989, I bought an open plot of 200 yards for ₹60 per yard i.e. ₹12,000 and got it registered in my wife's name, who passed away in a car accident during 1994. The court declared me, my son and daughter as her legal heirs. We sold the plot for 14 lakh in February 2018 and got an equal share of ₹4.66 lakh.

What would be the tax liablity of me and that of my children, who are working in private companies? Being Muslims, we have to pay Zakat (poor tax) at the rate of 2.5 per cent to the needy during the month of Ramzan. I need to clear personal loans worth ₹3 lakh. Please clarify if these are allowed as deductions from income-tax.

FAKHRUDDIN SHAIK
Hyderabad

A) The cost of the plot purchased should be valued at the registration value as on April 1, 2001 by the registration authority as the base year for indexation of the cost of the plot has been replaced from April 1, 1981 to April 1, 2001. As per Section 49(1) of the Income-Tax Act, if the capital asset becomes the property of the assessee by succession, inheritance or devolution or by way of a gift, the cost of the asset is deemed to be the cost for which the previous owner of the property acquired it.

According to the Income Tax Act, the application of income to discharge an obligation after such income reaches an assessee is not allowed as deduction in respect of such income. Though you have to pay Zakat as a donation to the poor which is obligatory for you, such application of income will not be allowed as a deduction in your case.

The applicability of income-tax slab rates for an individual is based on the age of such individual and since you are a senior citizen, the basic exemption limit of taxation for you is ₹3,00,000. It may also be noted that in case your total income is below the threshold limit, the difference between that threshold limit and your income will be eligible for set off from LTCG computed above and tax at rate of 20.6 per cent has to be paid as the balance amount.

Therefore if your income is below ₹3,00,000, you will not have to pay tax on such income. Long Term Capital Gains is taxed at 20 per cent (excluding cess at three per cent) irrespective of the income tax slab rates. The benefit you will get out of this is that if the amount of capital gains is below the basic exemption limit of ₹3,00,000, then the capital gains earned by you are not taxable.

The last date of filing of return for an individual(for non audit case) is July 31 of the succeeding year to the financial year for which the income needs to be computed. Therefore in your case, the return has to be filed before 31st July 2018.

(The writer is a chartered accountant. You can your send queries to info@rathiandmalani.com)

₹10,000 INVESTED A YEAR AGO

Investment Type	1-Year Returns	Value Today (in Rs.)
Fixed Deposit	7.00%	10,700
Bank Savings	4.00%	10,400
Large Cap MF Category Average	16.80%	11,680
Mid Cap MF Category Average	21.72%	12,172
Small Cap MF Category Average	29.23%	12,923
Multi Cap MF Category Average	19.67%	11,967
ELSS MF Category Average	20.38%	12,038
Sensex	15.72%	11,572
Nifty 50	14.59%	11,459

Data as of March 14, 2018 — Data Courtesy: BankBazaar.com

Compounding effect is secret of success in equities



■ **Invest talk**
R. Balakrishnan

I come across many requests for 'tips' or 'recommendations' for investing in shares. There are two categories of people who just ask. One is the type who has not invested in direct equities. The other ones are the seasoned ones, who are in search of new ideas. Let us leave aside the second category for now.

The first timers are interesting. Many of them have heard stories, read the news and are generally up-to-date with most headline financial news. Some of them keep trying their luck at applying for IPOs and when they do manage to hit the button, sell it on listing. If they have made a gain, they are happy. If the stock shoots up after they sold, then the story is never told.

Many of them walk up to me and ask me to give them a couple of names for investing for the 'long term'. Naturally, it has to be such that the price should only go up. And since they think I am an 'expert', the stock should do far better than the market. They are conditioned to think that only penny stocks or low-priced stocks can be the recommendations. I tell them that if they are making a beginning, they should start off with well known names like HDFC, HDFC Bank, Kotak, Cummins, Bajaj Auto, Hero, Nestle, Levers etc. Their response is that "oh, that is too well known, you should be able to tell me of a small stock that will grow".

If you are a first timer, you should stick to well-known names. Pick a product that is familiar to you. Your daily use tells you which companies are popular and touch your life regularly. These may be well known, but they are also good and safe havens for your wealth. Most of them deliver excellent returns and you are unlikely to do worse than the market, over time. Of course, if you could pick a basket of five to ten names you like, I would urge that you do an SIP in those stocks for ten years. You can keep increasing the allocation to SIP as your income grows. This kind of a portfolio will create a solid bundle of wealth for you.

If I tell you the names of some unknown or lesser known stocks, it is only a 'potential' that is being given to you. In today's world, there are more number of analysts per stock than there are investors. The flows in to equity have never been so strong and it can only go up from here. Discovering new ideas is an extremely tough ask and the risks are very high. The best money can be made only if you spot a company that will go on to become one of the top three or four in any industry. Here, there is a lot of luck also involved. The one, who you think has made 100X from some stock, must have put his moneys in to different stocks. His winners get talked about. No one talks about the ones that did not make the grade.

You have to first secure your wealth with solid assets where preservation of capital is needed. Smaller names can be picked up with money that you can afford to lose without batting an eyelid. And to make big returns, it is not enough if you put some ₹10,000 in to an idea. You have to commit significant amounts to make real wealth. Here, do not forget your compound arithmetic. Let us say, that the stock market gives us an 'average' return of 15 per cent. Suddenly we read that HDFC gave a compound return of 29 per cent over 27 years. Do you realise the significance of this? Let me give you a small table with 30 year returns.

Let the 'power' of compounding sink in. Cut this out and stick it on a wall. If you put aside a sum of a lakh of rupees and just forget it for 30 years, this is what it would be, at the end of the 30-year period, at different rates of return (see table).

When the return increases from 10 to 15 percent, the final value is nearly four times. Thus if a quality company grows its profits at around 15 to 20 percent per annum, it is reasonable to expect that the share prices will also do likewise. Thus, when you have reasonably good comfort in well-known names, what would you choose? When there is a simple solution, why do we complicate things?

(The writer is a veteran investment advisor. He can be contacted at balakrishnanr@gmail.com)

Annual Return	Maturity (Rs Lakh)
A	B
6%	5.42
10%	15.86
15%	57.58
20%	197.81
25%	646.23
30%	2,015.38



IndiGo had to ground one of its A320neo planes from operation after metal chips were detected in the jet's engine oil.

"CFM engines will help us reduce our overall cost of operations and therefore it will increase margins for SpiceJet.



— Ajay Singh, CEO, SpiceJet

BIZ BRIEFS

Sebi bars analyst from markets

New Delhi: In a major clampdown on unregistered investment advice being offered online, regulator Sebi has barred the 'Fatal Attraction' fame research analyst Anirudh Sethi from the securities market, while asking him to refund the fees collected from investors. In its probe, Sebi found multiple deposit entries of ₹36,000 in Sethi's bank account from different parts of the country from April 1, 2013 to April 20, 2016, which he said was taken from traders and investors seeking financial advice on global markets. — PTI



H&M to hire 800 people in India

New Delhi: Fashion retailer H&M plans to hire 800 people this year as part of expansion plans of its sales network here, said a top company official. Besides, H&M group, which has a total of nine labels in its umbrella, will not introduce any other brands in India under the current single brand FDI retail policy due to the sourcing requirements. "We have 3,500 people working for the retail company and we would hire 800 more this year," H&M India country manager Janne Einola told PTI. He added that the new hirings would be for the new stores which the company intends to open here. — *PTI*

AAI plans to raise ₹1,500cr in FY19

New Delhi: Airports Authority of India (AAI) is looking to raise ₹1,500 crore as term loan to fund capital expenditure in the next fiscal, wherein work is to commence on new terminal buildings at various aerodromes. The state-owned airports operator, which has a healthy balance sheet, is going in for borrowings for the first time. For FY19, the capital expenditure is projected to be around ₹4,100 crore, compared to ₹2,500 crore for FY18. AAI is scouting for rupee term loans to the tune of ₹1,500 crore, according to a recent public notice. — *PTI*

CENTRE LEVIES DUMPING DUTY ON OFLOXACIN

New Delhi: India has imposed anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese pharma product, used in treatment of certain infections, to protect domestic producers from below-cost shipments. The duty on import of 'Ofloxacin' from China will be in the range of $2.58 to $9.48 per kilogram for three years, said a notification issued by the revenue department in the finance ministry. The levy has been slapped following the recommendations of the DGAD. Aarti Drugs had approached the DGAD for initiation of anti-dumping investigation and imposition of the duty concerning imports of Ofloxacin, originating in or exported from China. After a probe, the authority concluded that the product has been exported to India from China below its normal value, "resulting in dumping". — *PTI*



RISING PROTECTIONISM

India to engage with 50 nations

Global trade likely to be the main focus

New Delhi, March 18: The government on Sunday said that 50 nations will engage in free and frank discussions on trade here this week to explore the options for resolving various issues and re-invigorating the WTO.

Representatives from 50 countries will be gathering in New Delhi on March 19-20 for an informal WTO ministerial meeting. "The informal meeting of ministers will provide an opportunity to engage in free and frank discussions with the hope that it will lead to political guidance on some major issues," the commerce ministry said.

It will look at the issues both at the negotiating table and also in other areas. Commerce secretary Rita Teaotia had said recently that the meeting would be more of an "ice-breaker" as it is being held after the collapse of talks at the meeting in December.

When asked if there would be a statement by the chair, she had said it would be for the mini-ministerial to decide.

The ministry's further said: "In the absence of ministerial guidance at the 11th Ministerial Conference that took place from 10 to 13 December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, it is hoped that the New Delhi meeting will provide an opportunity for ministers to explore in greater detail the options on different issues for re-invigorating the WTO."

It further said that safeguarding and strengthening the system was never as important as it is today particularly its dispute settlement arm. — *PTI*

"The informal meeting of ministers will provide an opportunity to engage in free and frank discussions with the hope that it will lead to political guidance on some major issues

— COMMERCE MINISTRY



India can't flex much: Assocham

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

In a global trade war, India does not have much flexing power despite high imports, Assocham said on Sunday.

"So, the best course would be to keep engaged with the major trading partners, without aligning ourselves too much into a single bloc. Wherever, our exports are affected, we must engage bilaterally and use the channel of the WTO in a rule-based manner," the body said.

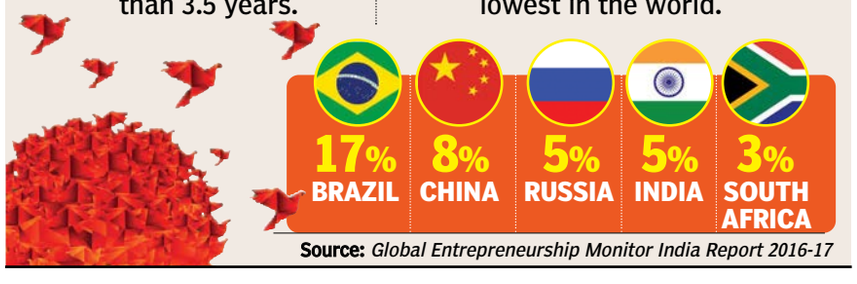
However, the WTO route could be time consuming. So, the best course would be to stay bilaterally engaged, it said. "India may be running an annual trade deficit of about $150 billion, but a much higher level of imports than exports would not provide the country handle to retaliate, should the world witnesses an escalation in trade war, since most of the Indian imports are unavoidable," it said.

"Though, we may end up the current fiscal with a hefty import bill of $450 billion against exports of about $300 billion, almost one-fourth of this would be only on account of crude and other related items. Then, there are essential imports of plastics and fertiliser for which the country does not have an immediate domestic capacity," the body said.

"However, even before the break out of the trade war, India has seen a huge jump of 21 per cent annualised rise in steel imports at $1.15 billion in February, 2018 and non-ferrous metals by 33 per cent at $1 billion. Yes, India should be watchful about a sudden jump in steel imports since we have enough domestic capacity available. Similar is the position with coal and related products for which domestic output can be and should be ramped up," it said.

THE ENTREPRENEUR

- **11%** of India's adult population is engaged in "total early-stage entrepreneurial activity."
- **4%** of the population accounts for "nascent entrepreneurs," who are actively engaged in setting up a business they will own or co-own.
- **7%** are the entrepreneurs who are owner-managers of businesses which are running for less than 3.5 years.
- **5%** of adult population in India manages to establish their businesses, which is to say, it survives for longer than 42 months. It is among the lowest in the world.



Source: *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor India Report 2016-17*

Centre may collect passport info

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 18

To prevent defaulters like Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi leaving the country, the corporate affairs ministry is looking at a proposal to seek passport details of all individuals, who have been permitted to serve as directors on the board of companies.

Sources said that prospective Director Identification Number seekers will too have to submit passport details for obtaining the 8-digit unique id provided by the ministry. The DIN application form will be suitably modified to include the passport detail column, sources said, adding that it is contingent upon the proposal being approved by the ministry.

SOURCES SAID that prospective Director Identification Number seekers will too have to submit passport details for obtaining the 8-digit unique id provided by the ministry.

THE DIN application form will be suitably modified to include the passport detail column, sources said, adding that it is contingent upon the proposal being approved by the ministry.



Earlier, the finance ministry had said that passport details of borrowers taking loans of ₹50 crore and more have been made mandatory to ensure a swift action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing.

Sources in the corporate affairs ministry said that in case, a person with Director Identification Number (DIN) does not have a passport, the ministry plans to obtain a certificate in the form of declaration that the person does not have the passport.

Passport details in at the digital warehouse will help authorities to take timely action and check fraudsters from fleeing the country.

In absence of passport details, banks were hamstrung in taking timely action to prevent defaulters especially wilful one from fleeing the country.

Last week, the government tabled a bill seeking to confiscate all the assets of absconding fraudsters against the outstanding loan. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018 aims to impound and sell assets of fugitives such as Nirav Modi, who is alleged to be behind the ₹13,000 crore fraud at PNB.

The law will apply to defaulters who have an outstanding of ₹100 crore or more and have escaped from the country.



IOC, BPCL EYE 26% STAKE EACH IN GAIL

New Delhi, March 18: State-owned Indian Oil (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) may buy 26 per cent stake each in gas utility GAIL India, paying the government over ₹20,000 crore each to become integrated energy firms.

Following finance minister Arun Jaitley's 2017 Budget announcement of creating integrated oil majors, IOC and BPCL had submitted separate proposals to buy the government's 54.89 per cent stake in GAIL.

A top source said since the government is not looking at actual merger of oil companies but only transfer of its ownership to a cash rich PSU, the best option would be to split the 54.89 per cent holding in GAIL equally between IOC and BPCL.

At Friday's closing price of ₹440.85 a share for GAIL on BSE, the stake is worth close to ₹41,000 crore.

In January this year, ONGC bought out government's 51.11 per cent stake in refiner HPCL for ₹36,915 crore. But HPCL hasn't been merged with ONGC and continues to remain a separate listed company with the same board.

After the buyout, HPCL has become a subsidiary of ONGC, which gets up to two seats on the company board. — *PTI*

Only 16% of sales match with final GST returns

New Delhi, March 18: With only 16 per cent of the summary sales returns under GST matching with the final returns, the revenue department has started to analyse major gaps with a view to check any possible tax evasion.

According to the GST returns data, 34 per cent of businesses paid ₹34,400 crore less tax between July-December while filing initial summary return (GSTR-3B).

These 34 per cent of the businesses have paid ₹8.16 lakh crore to the exchequer by filing GSTR-3B, whereas analysis of their GSTR-1 data show that their tax liability should have been ₹8.50 lakh crore.

As per the analysis by the revenue department, initial returns filed and taxes paid by 16.36 per cent of the businesses have matched with their final returns and tax liability. They paid a total tax of ₹22,014 crore.

However, the data also showed that there was excess tax payment of ₹91,072 crore by 49.36 per cent of businesses registered under GST between July-December.

While they have paid ₹6.50 lakh crore as GST, the GSTR-1 filed by them shows that their liability should have been ₹5.59 lakh crore.

The revenue department has analysed the GST returns data filed by over 51.96 lakh businesses during July-December, 2017.

EY Partner Abhishek Jain said: "While the differences in the liabilities reported in GSTR- 1 vis-a-vis that in GSTR-3B would need to be analysed in detail by the government, one of the contributor to the difference could be non-consideration of credit/debit notes in the GSTR-1 data which would have been considered for GSTR-3B numbers".

49.36% registered under GST paid an excess GST of ₹91,072 crore between July-December.

84% of taxpayers reporting incorrect revenue statements, is a matter of concern. Triumph of GST depends on self-assessment mechanism for which we have to adopt completely bias-free, independent, automated, and digital tax regime, which would be impossible if such high number of taxpayers are committing errors in data entry.

— RAJAT MOHAN, *Partner, AMRG & Associates*

The GST Council had on March 10 decided to further analyse data gaps between self declared liability in GSTR-1 and the taxes actually paid while filing GSTR-3B.

AMRG & Associates Partner Rajat Mohan said: "84 per cent of taxpayers reporting incorrect revenue statements, is a matter of concern. Triumph of GST depends on self-assessment mechanism for which we have to adopt completely bias-free, independent, automated, and digital Tax regime, which would be impossible if such high number of taxpayers are committing errors in data entry".

As per a finance ministry reply, GST mop up was ₹93,590 crore in July, ₹93,029 crore in August, ₹95,132 crore in September and ₹85,931 crore in October. The collections in November stood at ₹83,716 crore, December (₹88,929cr) and January (₹88,047cr). — *PTI*

GST DISPUTE SOLUTIONS NEED TO BE TIMEBOUND, SAYS PWC

New Delhi, March 18: Global accountancy firm PwC has suggested "timebound" resolution of disputes under the GST to make the new indirect tax regime more business friendly.

One-time dispute resolution schemes were introduced under the erstwhile regime, but industry has been rigid about adopting such measures for various reasons, PwC said in a report.

The Centre should "seriously look" look at business-friendly measures to put to rest long pending litigations, it said.

PwC also said the government needs to focus on strengthening the advance ruling process to ensure minimal litigation and improved tax regime. "...there is a need for a mandate to ensure that disputes under the GST are closed in a timebound manner," it said. The report noted that the implementation of GST is a "truly a remarkable" achievement for India. — *PTI*

Markets to look at global cues for direction



C. Kutumba Rao
Market Khabar

The markets, which closed on a weak note during the week ended, was spooked by negative news on both domestic and global front.

The Sensex and the Nifty ended 131 points and 32 points lower at 33,176 and 10,195 respectively. However, mild buying interest in the broader market saw BSE mid- and small-cap indices close 1.4 per cent and 1.6 per cent higher.

Shades of political instability by 2019 cast shadow on the markets after TDP decided to exit NDA.

Widening current account deficit on the back of a rising trade gap has become a cause of concern. According to the government data, trade deficit expanded to nearly $43 billion in the October-December period from $32 billion in the July-September period. The wider trade deficit was partially on account of higher crude oil prices.

FII selling and portfolio outflows have resulted in rupee becoming the second-worst Asian currency so far this year.

Near term market direction will be dictated by political stability cues in terms of no confidence motion in the Parliament for the ruling party, news flow on monsoon, US Fed meeting, primary market (IPOs), macro economic data, international crude oil prices and global cues.

For the week ahead, chartists predict trading range of 32,600-33,600 and 10,050-10,350 for the benchmark indices. Support for the indices evident at 32,850 & 32,600 and 10,110 & 10,030.

Nifty is precariously poised above the 200-DMA of 10,100; breach of this level and multiple closings below this level may pull down Nifty to as low as 9,200-9,300 levels in next few weeks itself, warn techies.

STOCK SCAN

■ Tejas Networks is a provider of carrier grade communications equipment and solutions for telecom industry. The company is a supplier of optical networking equipment to telecom carriers across the world. It is ranked amongst top-10 suppliers in the global optical aggregation segment. Its technology facilitates various applications, such as video calls and mobile television. Tejas procured order for installation, commissioning and maintenance of GPON equipment for a national fiber optic network project. Buy on declines for target price of ₹500.

■ EIH Ltd, under the aegis of The Oberoi Group, operates hotels and cruisers in five countries under the luxury 'Oberoi' and five-star 'Trident' brands. The group is also engaged in flight catering, airport restaurants, travel and tour services, car rentals, project management and corporate air charters. Oberoi Hotels & Resorts is synonymous the world over with providing the right blend of service, luxury and quiet efficiency. The group's commitment to excellence, attention to detail and personalized service has ensured a loyal list of guests and accolades in the worldwide hospitality industry. Buy for medium term target of ₹325.

■ GMM Pfaudler manufactures glass-lined equipment, storage vessels and alloy steel equipment and is a leading supplier of engineered equipment and systems for critical applications in the global chemical and pharmaceutical markets. Pfaudler Inc., USA the world leader in Glass Lined equipment holds 51% stake. In 2015, Deutsche Beteiligungs AG a leading German private equity company acquired Pfaudler Inc., USA. Buy for medium term target of ₹1,200.

FUTURES & OPTIONS

Amidst heavy volatility, the derivative segment witnessed brisk trading. Sentiment indicators like open interest, implied volatility, VIX and put/call ratio suggest further fall from current levels in near term.

On the options front, the maximum open interest in put options is at 10,000 strike and maximum open interest in call option is at 10,400 strike. The near term trend of Nifty is clearly down.

It is pertinent to observe that for year-till-date, Nifty is already down by 3.4 per cent.

Pullback rallies will have short life and there is a possibility of further weakness down to the low of 10,000 mark, by next week. There is a minor possibility of upside bounce in Nifty, from near 10,000 mark, in coming weeks. Use relief rallies to reduce positions.

On the back of buying in select counters like BOB, Axis Bank and YES Bank, Bank Nifty futures ended the week 1.34 per cent higher. Signs of stability in the sector are on horizon. Buy PSU banks like Canara Bank, Syndicate Bank and BOB.

Barring TCS, technology counters witnessed renewed buying interest. Shares of TCS fell 6.5 per cent during the week after its promoter Tata Sons sold about 1.5 per cent stake in block deals. Use present weakness to buy frontline IT counters.

Defensive buying was seen in FMCG sector. Hind Unilever, Marico and Godrej Consumer look good for further gains.

Improvement in domestic demand to give fillip to metal counters, say watchers. Buy Tata Steel and Hind Zinc.

Short term rally indicated in cement stocks. Buy ACC and Ramco Cements. Reports of tax issues raised by CAG have triggered selling in RIL.

(C. Kutumba Rao is an avid follower of stock markets. This newspaper is not liable for decisions made on the basis of this column. Views expressed in the article are personal views of the writer.)

EV STRATEGY NEED TO BE PRACTICAL

New Delhi, March 18: As the electric vehicle markets stand on the brink of explosive growth, governments and the industry must proceed with caution as they need practical strategy to manage this segment, says a report.

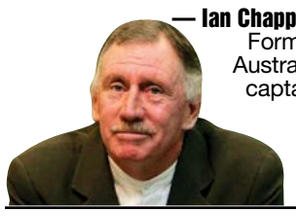
Governments and car makers have ambitious plans for EVs, but car makers are facing challenges to secure supplies of raw materials used for battery production, a A.T. Kearney Energy Transition Institute report said.

"Governments, mining companies, battery producers and carmakers need strategies for an industrial and technological energy transition to reduce CO2 emissions, based on solutions that are practical, safe and economically viable," the institute's chairman Richard Forrest said. According to the it, cobalt is in particularly short supply and reserves could be depleted completely by the time 300 million EVs are produced. — *PTI*



Josh Hazlewood has admitted he needs to improve with the new ball against South Africa in the remaining Tests at Cape Town and Johannesburg

> Officials need to be proactive about bad behaviour, not reactive
>
> **— Ian Chappell**
> Former Australia captain



SHORT TAKES



Rest Of India's Hanuma Vihari celebrates his ton against Vidarbha. — *PTI*

Vidarbha reign supreme in Irani

Nagpur: Reigning Ranji Trophy champions Vidarbha completed a coveted double crown by winning the Irani Cup beating Rest of India by virtue of massive first innings lead. The hosts had made a mockery of the contest when they decided to post a recprd total of 800 in their first innings and then bowled out Rest of India for 390 on the final day of the match. Vidarbha won by virtue of huge 404-run first innings lead. With Rajneesh Gurbani (4/70) doing the primary job of dismissing the top-order, left-arm spinner Aditya Sarwate (3/97) polished the lower-order despite Andhra batsman Hanuma Vihari's gutsy 183. Out-of-favour India all-rounder Jayant Yadav scored 96 as the duo added 216 runs for the seventh wicket showing that there were no demons on the pitch. — *PTI*

Brief score: Vidarbha 800/7 decl & 79 for no loss in 26 overs drew with Rest of India 390 in 129.1 overs (G Hanuma Vihari 183, Jayant Yadav 96, Rajneesh Gurbani 4/70).

Queen Of Clubs for main event

Chennai`: Queen Of Clubs is fancied to win the Race The Thank You All Cup, the main event of the races to be held here on Monday.

SELECTION

1. The Vaigai Plate 1100m 2pm: 1. Rafaele; 2. Intox; 3. Peyto.
2. The Erode Plate 1200m 2:30pm: 1. Betty Boop; 2. My Dream Boat; 3. Sprinkler.
3. The Dharmapuri Plate (Div-I) 1200m 3pm: 1. Glorious Nissy; 2. Bright Script; 3. Beautiful Princess.
4. The Dharmapuri Plate (Div-II) 1200m 3:30pm: 1. Desert King; 2. Victoria's Secret; 3. Lady Love.
5. The Dharmapuri Plate (Div-III) 1200m 4pm: 1. Chennai Chic; 2. Royal Symphony; 3. Star Imperial.
6. The End of the Season Cup 1400m 4:30pm: 1. Samba Warrior; 2. Areca Cruise; 3. Vision Of Romance.
7. Race The Thank You All Cup 1200m 5pm: 1. Queen Of Clubs; 2. Referent; 3. Crown Of Stars.
8. The Karaikal Plate 1200m 5:30pm: 1. Steve Mcqueen; 2. Millrose; 3. Trapezoid.
Day's Best: Desert King

CITY CLIPS

Kerala beat TN

Brief scores of the BCCI women's U-23 T20 south-zone league: Kerala 160/3 in 20 overs (Aswathy Babu 30, S. Sajana 35*, Minnu Mani 58*, P.B Swetha 2/38) bt Tamil Nadu 41 in 19.5 overs (Jipsa V Joseph 2/4, Keethy K. James 2/12). **Points:** Kerala 4(8); Tamil Nadu 0(0).

Magesh excels

Brief scores of the 14th Lucas TVS-Thiruvallur DCA trophy: Wheels India 190/9 in 30 overs (D. Magesh 76, Karam Pal Jangra 45, M. Sanjeev 4/48, K. Jegan 3/46) bt Engine Factory Avadi 86 in 18.2 overs (R. Prashanth 4/46, M. Sakthivel 3/12).



Team India pose with the Nidahas T20 trophy after defeating Bangladesh in the final on Sunday. — *AP*

KARTHIK DOES A MIANDAD



Yuzvendra Chahal took three wickets. — *AFP*

Colombo, March 18: Dinesh Karthik did a Javed Miandad with a last-ball six as India pulled off an incredible chase beating Bangladesh by four wickets in the Nidahas T20 Tri-series final, here on Sunday.

Needing five off the final delivery, Karthik smashed Soumya Sarkar over extra-cover as a second-string Indian side held its nerve in a tense situation to chase down a target of 167 in 20 overs. It would count as one of India's famous last ball sixes -- something that Pakistani legend did against India 32 years back in Sharjah.

Karthik's gem of a cameo got him 29 off 8 balls with two boundaries and three sixes -- the last of them which will be forever be etched in the memory.

Skipper Rohit Sharma's (56 off 42 balls) dismissal set India's inexperienced middle-order in panic mode and Vijay Shankar's four dot balls off the 18th over by Mustafizur Rahaman made it very difficult for India.

Karthik came at the start of the19th over and hit Rubel Hossain for 22 including two sixes and two fours to bring down the equation to 12 off the final over before finishing it off in style.

A partisan Sri Lankan crowd, who were upset by Bangladesh's behaviour did the now famous snake dance along with Indian supporters leaving the Tigers distraught.

Rohit started with a lofted boundary over long-on off his opposite number Shakib. Young off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz then got a taste of what world class batsmanship is as he was hit for two huge sixes -- one over deep mid-wicket and other over long-on along with another boundary.

Shikhar Dhawan (10) and Suresh Raina (0) were out in quick succession but the Indian captain was in his element as Bangladesh's ploy of using spinners in the Powerplay didn't prove to be as effective as India. Rohit hit left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam over mid-off for a boundary and then an inside out lofted shot over long-off fetched him a six. He square cut Mustafizur Rahaman for a boundary as India seized control scoring 56 in the Powerplay overs.

KL Rahul (24, 14 balls) once again looked in fine touch during a 51-run stand with his skipper but failed to make it count as his mistimed pull off a Rubel Hossain delivery landed into safe hands of Sabbir at deep square leg.

Earlier, Indian pacers undid the hard work of their spinners as Bangladesh scored a competitive 166 for eight, riding on Sabbir's 50-ball 77 after batting first. Off-spinner Washington Sundar (1/20 in 4 overs) and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (3/18 in 4 overs) were brilliant in the Powerplay. — *PTI*

SCOREBOARD

Bangladesh: Tamim Iqbal c Thakur b Chahal 15, Liton Das c Raina b Washington Sundar 11, Sabbir Rahman b Unadkat 77, Soumya Sarkar c Dhawan b Chahal 1, Mushfiqur Rahim c Shankar b Chahal 9, Mahmudullah run out (Karthik/Shankar) 21, Shakib Al Hasan run out (Sharma/Rahul/Shankar) 7, Mehidy Hasan Miraz (not out) 19, Rubel Hossain b Unadkat 0, Mustafizur Rahman (not out) 0. **Extras (lb 2, w 4) 6. Total (for eight wickets in 20 overs) 166.**

FoW: 1-27, 2-27, 3-33, 4-68, 5-104, 6-133, 7-147, 8-148.

Bowling: Unadkat 4-0-33-2, Washington 4-0-20-1, Chahal 4-0-18-3, Thakur 4-0-45-0, Shankar 4-0-48-0.

India: R. Sharma c Mahmudullah b Nazmul Islam 56, S. Dhawan c sub (Ariful Haque) b Shakib Al Hasan 10, S. Raina c Mushfiqur Rahim b Rubel Hossain 0, KL Rahul c Sabbir Rahman b Rubel Hossain 24, M. Pandey c Sabbir Rahman b Mustafizur Rahman 28, V Shankar c Mehidy Hasan Miraz b Soumya Sarkar 17, D. Karthik (not out) 29, Washington Sundar (not out) 0. **Extras (lb 2, w 2) 4. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs) 168.**

FoW: 1-32, 2-32, 3-83, 4-98, 5-133, 6-162.

Bowling: Shakib 4-0-28-1, Mehidy 1-0-17-0, Rubel 4-0-35-2, Nazmul 4-0-32-1, Mustafizur 4-1-21-1, Soumya 3-0-33-1.

'I HAVE TO COMEBACK STRONGER'



Birmingham, March 18: Indian shuttler P.V. Sindhu on Sunday vowed to come back stronger after losing an epic semifinal against World No. 2 Akane Yamaguchi at the All England Championship here.

In a nail-biting semifinal, fourth seed Sindhu went down fighting 21-19 19-21 18-21 to Yamaguchi after battling for an hour and 19 minutes on Saturday night.

"It was just not my day. I gave my 100%. There are always up and downs and one should win and one should lose. There were long rallies and she played well," Sindhu said after the gruelling contest.

"Playing a three-game tie is not easy. Just 2-3 points made the huge difference in the end as it was anybody's game. I have a lot of things to learn from this tournament. You keep losing and winning but it was a good tournament and I have to come back stronger."

Yamaguchi, who had won the German Open early this month, said it was her aggressive approach that earned her the win. "This win is very valuable asset for me. I am thankful that I got a chance to fight tomorrow. I was just trying to keep up with the pace and hang on. I was aggressive in the end and it led to the win," she said.

Yamaguchi will face World No. 1 Taiwanese Tai Tzu Ying in the final.

Asked about her opponent, the 20-year-old Japanese said: "She is aggressive and has got speed and great retriving skills and I will give everything I got and just want to enjoy the match." — *PTI*

INDIAN WOMEN SUFFER 97-RUN DEFEAT TO OZ

Vadodara, March 18: Indian women suffered their most embarrassing series defeats in recent times as Australia completed a 3-0 rout with a comprehensive 97-run drubbing of the hosts in the three-match ODI series. Alyssa Healy smashed her way to a brilliant 133 off 115 balls with the Southern Stars piling up a massive 332 for 7. In reply, India started off well riding on Jemimah Rodrigues (42 off 41 balls) and Smriti Mandhana (52 off 42 balls)'s 101-run opening stand but their fight fizzled out as they were all out for 235 in 44.4 overs. Healy's maiden ODI hundred ensured that Australia's margin of victory only got bigger. — *PTI*

Kohli feels Dhoni is irreplaceable, says Rai



Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni.

New Delhi, March 18: Contrary to popular belief that Mahendra Singh Dhoni was relegated from the elite category of central contracts, it was the former skipper himself who wanted an A+ grade for top performers, says Supreme Court appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) chief Vinod Rai.

Twenty-six cricketers have been handed central contracts with skipper Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah being included in the ₹7 crore A+ category. Dhoni is in the A category with ₹5 crore annual retainership.

"This A+ category was proposed by the players themselves. We had a discussion about this category with Dhoni and Virat. They proposed that there should be category of world class excellence in which players who play all three formats of the game should be there," Rai said.

The head of the CoA said both Dhoni and Kohli wanted A+ to be a functional category to indicate who are the Indian team's top performers. "This should be a functional category where players move in and out. Also it will show that the best in the business are rewarded as per performance."

What the former CAG found heartening was the camaraderie between Kohli and Dhoni. "Their camaraderie is exceptional with so much mutual respect. Virat respects Dhoni's cricketing acumen and Dhoni respects what Virat is achieving as a player," said Rai.

In fact, Virat has told the CoA why he thinks Dhoni is irreplaceable in the limited overs set up as of now. "Virat feels that there are no faster pair of gloves than MS Dhoni. Also Dhoni's cricketing mind honed over so many years is an asset for Virat. As far as how many years of cricket is left in him, time and his performance will tell," he said.

Rai said that the best part about central contracts was that it ensured a decent earning for domestic players. "These increases have been proposed in consultation with the players. Domestic players, who were getting ₹10-12 lakh per annum, will now get ₹20-22 lakh per annum in addition to the earnings from Gross Revenue System (profits from TV broadcast).

"Now with this kind of salary, domestic players can concentrate on their game without looking for jobs," Rai said.

There was a lot of anguish among BCCI office bearers at not being consulted and the finance committee being allegedly bypassed but Rai set the record straight. "We discussed with players and we placed the proposal to the office-bearers. The package was there with them from September (2017) and there's nothing new in it. Finance committee did not meet is a fact but package was known to them," said Rai.

"They did not even have any comments to make. Finally, when we again met the players (during Sri Lanka series), we showed them and they did it was reasonable. So we decided to put it out as players have contracts and their insurances are in place before IPL," he said. — *PTI*

> **Virat feels that there are no faster pair of gloves than MS Dhoni. Also Dhoni's cricketing mind honed over so many years is an asset for Virat. As far as how many years of cricket is left in him, time and his performance will tell**
>
> **— VINOD RAI COA chief**



TNCA FIRST DIVISIONLEAGUE

NELSON'S FATE IN YOUNG STARS' HANDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

Nelson CC's brilliant season in the TNCA first division league could well end in agony after they stumbled in their final Elite phase match on Sunday. Nelson went down to India Pistons by 115 runs within two days to finish with 19 points. Pistons who gained eight points for their victory qualified for the semi-final with 22 points.

Globe Trotters and Vijay CC look set to make it to the semis as their final round match is heading for a draw. If Grand Slam beat Young Stars on Monday, they will go through as the fourth team at the expense of Nelson. The fate of Nelson is in the hands of Young Stars, who trail by 88 runs going into the final day.



Himmat Singh



M. Prabhu

Brief scores: Elite: Vijay 585/6 in 155 overs (G. Rahul Singh 58, Himmat Singh 306 (batting), K.B. Arun Karthick 135, Chetan Sakariya 2/96, M. S. Sanjay 2/156) vs Globe Trotters. Young Stars 210 in 61.5 overs (U. Vishal 28, J. Gowjith Subash 31, S. Swaminathan 27, R. Rohit 51*, B. Arun 6/90, N. S. Harish 4/44) & 10 for no loss in two overs vs Grand Slam 308/8 decl. in 85 overs (L. Suryapprakash 50, Bhargav Merai 122*, V Yo Mahesh 30, S Mohan Prasath 6/98). India Pistons 163 & 103/9 in 22.1 overs (Shoaib Md. Khan 6/42, Swapnil K Singh 2/25) bt Nelson 48 in 20.4 overs (M. Prabhu 6/33, Rajwiner Singh 4/11) & 103 in 27.4 overs (Shoaib Md. Khan 45*, M. Prabhu 5/34, Rajwinder Singh 4/25). **Points:** Pistons 8 (22); Nelson 0 (19).

Plate: Jolly Rovers 232 in 67 overs (V. Ganga Sridhar Raju 45, M. Kaushik Gandhi 49, J. Syed Mohammed 53, Varun Sood 5/46, R. Sanjay Yadav 3/89) vs TI Cycles 213/8 in 89 overs (R. Nilesh Subramanian 84, Adhithya Giridhar 26, Varun Sood 35, D. T. Chandrasekar 7/89). UFCC (T Nagar) 314/8 in 98 overs (Kaushik U. Ram 54, R. Rishi Kumar 49, M. Abhinav 61, V. Arun Kumar 40, G.R. Manish 46 (batting), M. Siddharth 3/59, Karan Kaila 2/64) vs Alwarpet. AG's Office 305/5 decl. in 82 overs (N. S. Chaturved 30, M. Adithyan 41, Arpit V Vasavada 130, P. Francis Rokins 87*, R. Alexandar 2/75) vs CromBest 7/1 in nine overs.



Bengaluru FC captain Sunil Chhetri has been named ISL4's *Player of the Season* for scoring 14 goals including two hat tricks

FINAL RATINGS

10 As usual, **goalkeeper Karanjit Singh** was a pillar between the posts. He tipped over Sunil Chhetri's bullet header when the score was 3-1 in the final.

10 **Right-back Inigo Calderon** made two extraordinary clearances in the final to deny Dimas Delgado and Miku. As rock-solid as ever, he was full of passion and commitment.

10 **Centre-back Mailson Alves** owned the night with two thumping headed goals. He also had a hand in Bengaluru's opener with a deflection before Chhetri fired the ball home with a diving header.

8 **Centre-back and captain Henrique Sereno** maintained his usual high standards throughout. He has now won two ISL titles, the previous one coming in the colours of ATK.

7 **Left-back Jerry Lalrinzuala** could not keep track of winger Udanta Singh's run that ultimate resulted in BFC's opening goal. The youngster appeared most vulnerable in the back line on the night.

7 **Defensive midfielder Bikramjit Singh** had a quiet night before being replaced by Anirudh Thapa by the hour mark. The unassuming player's style is always unobtrusive.

7 **Right-winger Francisco Fernandes** didn't have much to do on the night but he did manage to put pressure on Bengaluru's defenders with his direct running.

10 **Left-winger Gregory Nelson** was a contender for the man of the match as he was involved in all three goals. He was extraordinary throughout.

9 **Raphael Augusto, the man in the hole,** had opened the scoring for Chennaiyin in ISL4 with a penalty against FC Goa in their first league match and he capped CFC's unforgettable season with an exquisite curler that sealed BFC's fate.

8 **Forward Jeje Lalpekhlua** failed to score on the night but he laid the ball off to Augusto for the team's third.

TNR

BFC unhappy with refereeing in final

Bengaluru: Bengaluru FC owner Parth Jindal on Sunday said he would urge the All India Football Federation to use Video Assistant Referee in the next Indian Super League to cut out "erroneous" calls by referees. "Just saw the highlights — @UdantaK goal was not offside at all — @nishukumar22 should have had a penalty — really tough to take this loss — will officially write to AIFF to use VAR next season in the @IndSuperLeague," Jindal said in a tweet. Jindal was referring to Udanta's goal which was disallowed by the referee for off-side. He was also referring to Nishu Kumar who could have had a penalty after he was brought down by Inigo Calderon when the score was 3-1.



Chennaiyin FC players and coaching staff pose with the 2015 and 2018 ISL trophies at Nehru Park on Sunday. *PHOTOS: E.K. SANJAY*

GREGORY STAYS ON

The English manager has signed a one-year contract extension

SRINIVASA N.V
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

Chennaiyin FC coach John Gregory has been rewarded with a one-year contract extension for winning the title in ISL4. "We have tied John up for the next season as well. It's a year to begin with because that's how he prefers it," said Chennaiyin co-owner Vita Dani.

For Gregory, it is his first trophy in his 29 years in management and the title is something that he had never thought about when he took up the job last October. "The feeling is yet to sink in. I honestly haven't worked as hard as this ever because of the schedule and the difference in culture from the United Kingdom here. With the help of the owners and the staff, the season has culminated into an amazing journey," said Gregory.

Gregory said that there were several turning points for Chennaiyin but one of them which stood out for him was their away match against FC Pune City. "We played Pune in the third match of the season and our defence shackled their star players, Marcelinho and Alfaro. We kept a clean-sheet and it basically showed me the strength of our defence. Inigo, Mailson, Sereno and a young Jerry were solid and suddenly you start to think you are not bad," he added. According to him, a 3-1 reverse against NorthEast away was a "kick up the backside" for Chennaiyin.

The manger said that FC Goa were the best side in the league. "To beat them 3-0 in the second leg of the semi-final says a lot about Chennaiyin," he added.



CFC assistant coach Syed Sabir Pasha and midfielder D. Ganesh.

For Gregory, it is his first trophy in his 29 years in management and the title is something that he had never thought about when he took up the job last October. He had not won a trophy in his playing career as well.

Gregory all praise for Sabir and Ganesh

The 63-year-old Englishman heaped praise on assistant coach Syed Sabir Pasha and defensive midfielder D. Ganesh, two true blue Chennaiites in the CFC squad. "Sabir's contribution is invaluable. He is very important for me because he knows the Indian players so well. He is my man on the field. Ganesh has had a season that he would probably never have dreamt of. He was a wonderful surprise to me. I played him in our second home game of the season after having a brain wave in the morning of the match. He's got a really good engine in him and he can run up and down for 90 minutes. None of our other players could have scored the goal he came up with against FC Goa in the second leg of the semi-final," he added.

Second title is sweeter than 1st

T.N. RAGHU
CHENNAI, MARCH 18



Karanjit Singh

After starting season four of ISL with a 3-2 defeat at the hands of FC Goa at home, Chennaiyin FC ended it with a 3-2 win over Bengaluru FC in the final. When Chennaiyin won their first title in 2015, also by a margin of 3-2, the petty management of FC Goa prevented them from letting their hair down by lodging a police complaint against Elano for an act of indiscretion. However in Bengaluru on Saturday, Chennaiyin were able to celebrate their second title with gusto.

BFC goal-keeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu struck a discordant note by saying his team had won the title by finishing first in the league. Maybe he should go on a hunger strike to force the ISL management to scrap the play-offs and the final from next year. It was an idiotic babble from a sour loser. Chennaiyin deserved their win in the final every millimetre. They had also been the only team to beat Bengaluru away by scoring more than a goal in the league stage. By conclusively beating FC Goa, probably the second best team in the league on paper behind BFC, in the two-legged play-off, Chennaiyin had proved the final triumph wasn't one-off.

The final has reinforced some superstitions. The team that top the league would never go on to win the title. Hosts never win a final because three have lost three in four seasons. Chennaiyin's triumph was a victory for football as they rode on team work than individual brilliance. As many as 11 players had been on the score-sheet in 21 matches. CFC are a shining example for running on domestic fuel with 16 of their 31 goals coming from Indian players. Twenty-one of CFC's 31 goals came in the second half, meaning that the team embodied endurance and never-say-die spirit.

The lion-hearted back line of CFC was critical to their success. All three foreign defenders were warriors than football players. The trio's commitment and hunger for success rubbed off on the entire team. The foundation for CFC's success was, no doubt, laid by their heroic defenders. In addition, the likes of Calderon, Sereno and Mailson also came up with eight crucial goals, one fourth of CFC's overall tally. The management of Chennaiyin should secure the services of the defensive trio for next season without any delay. Goalkeeper Karanjit Singh deserves special praise for being the embodiment of consistency and efficiency throughout the league.

Finally, the title in 2018 tastes sweeter than the one in 2015 because the latest one has been achieved without stars such as Elano and Stiven Mendoza. In other words, it is a victory for collective effort.

VIJAYAN TAKES HIS HAT OFF FOR CHENNAIYIN'S SECOND ISL TITLE

SRINIVASA N.V
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

"Strikers win you matches, defenders win you titles" is an old saying in football and former India player Raman Vijayan recalled it while paying rich tribute to Chennaiyin FC on their ISL success. The champions had one of the strongest defence in the league and an outstanding goalkeeper in Karanjit Singh.



Vijayan, who knows more than a thing or two about scoring goals, said he was awestruck at Chennai centre-back Mailson Alves' first goal in the final against Bengaluru FC. "The two outstanding players this season for CFC were Alves and Dutchman Gregory Nelson. It is never easy to score two goals in a final. Both the goals of Mailson were first-class and the third from Raphael Augusto was even better," said Vijayan who was beside himself with joy while commentating on the match.

Karanjit was one of the three players retained by Chennaiyin and he justified the management' faith with a consistent performance throughout. "Karanjit's performance was fabulous and he has improved a lot since last year. Local boy D. Ganesh also deserves special mention," said the 44-year-old.

He credited the formidable defence of CFC and the league's best manager — Englishman John Gregory. "Chennaiyin won the title because they played as a compact unit. They were strong in all departments, especially in defence. CFC played well in away games. Despite playing without a formidable foreign striker in nine number position, Chennai have won the league. Credit must go to Gregory for making this happen," Vijayan added.

Even though the football associations in the state are not doing much to improve the sport, Vijayan feels a lot has changed in the last four years and the title will further drive more youngsters to take up the sport. "Over all there is a lot development in the sport. The ISL has given a big platform for footballers. The next generation has now got the belief to take up football as a career," he said.

CHAMPS ARE BACK



CFC's two best players in the final, Mailson Alves (second from left) and Inigo Calderon (third from left), show off the ISL trophy at Chennai airport on Sunday. —*N. VAJIRAVELU*

CHENNAIYIN'S PLAYER OF THE SEASON IS GREGORY NELSON



Gregory Nelson

While John Gregory took to the Indian Super League seamlessly as Chennaiyin FC coach in his maiden season, his namesake — Dutch winger Gregory Nelson — quickly became the darling of the masses in his debut ISL season. Nelson can get fans to the edges of their seats with his bewitching set of skills. What's more, the left-winger also turned out to be Chennaiyin's most effective player in the three knock-out rounds by having a hand in all seven goals. First he set up Anirudh Thapa in the away leg of the semi-final before providing assists for all three goals in the return leg. He was at it again in the final, firing in corners for Mailson Alves's two goals before playing a central role for the third. The Dutchman also scored the winner against Pune at home in a crucial league match. For his stunning overall performance he is *DC's Player of the Season.*

Chennaiyin find unlikely success route: air

T.N. RAGHU
CHENNAI, MARCH 18

It transpires that aerial prowess had been central to Chennaiyin FC's stunning triumph in ISL4 apart from a quality that is the bedrock of any team's success: collective work. Thirteen of the champions' 31 goals came from headers, with nine off set-pieces and the remaining from open play. Nothing illustrated the importance of headed goals to Chennaiyin than the brace Mailson Alves came up with against Bengaluru FC on Saturday.

Alves rose majestically to nod in Gregory Nelson's left-wing corner off a post to score the equaliser. The Brazilian was at it again on the stroke of half-time as he left his marker dead to bury Nelson's right-wing corner with even more authority. Bengaluru FC's were reeling left, right and centre at half-time as the blow to solar plexus was palpable.

With four goals, Alves is the second highest scorer of Chennaiyin. His two previous goals, one against Delhi and another against ATK, also originated from his head. Similarly, both goals of defensive midfielder D. Ganesh and super sub Mohammed Rafi were headers. Captain Henrique Sereno, always a threat in the air, put his head to good use to score the winner against FC Pune City in a crucial away match early in the season.

The top scorer of the team, Jeje Lalpekhlua, may stand only 1.76 metres but that didn't prevent him from securing three of his nine goals through headers including a bullet from a standing position against FC Goa in the second leg of the semi-final. Right-winger Francisco Fernandes, another small man in the team, probably scored the best of the lot as he stealthily moved between two giants to arch his neck back to head the ball in against BFC in the league.



Gregory Nelson (left) and Rene Mihelic provided perfect assists for CFC's headed goals.



Despite being one of the shortest players for CFC, Jeje Lalpekhlua scored three headed goals.

Nelson and Slovenian winger Rene Mihelic played a stellar role in CFC's aerial supremacy with their perfect assists. Almost all the headed goals of CFC came from the boots of Nelson and Mihelic. Chennai coach John Gregory hadn't been hopeful of CFC's productivity in the air as a result of lack of height in his forward line at the beginning of the season but in the end it was air that inspired his team.

With four more coming from penalties and one being an own goal, Chennaiyin scored only 13 grounders in all. The importance of aerial power can't be stressed enough in modern football because defenders have got incredibly fitter and more efficient over the years. If teams fail to find a breakthrough on the ground, they must be equipped to find an alternative path in the air. **PS: Four of the five goals scored in the final on Saturday were headers!**

GOAL-SCORERS

Jeje Lalpekhlua	(India)	9
Mailson Alves	(Brazil)	4
Inigo Calderon	(Spain)	3
Raphael Augusto	(Brazil)	3
D. Ganesh	(India)	2
Md. Rafi	(India)	2
Rene Mihelic	(Slovenia)	2
Anirudh Thapa	(India)	2
Gregory Nelson	(the Ned)	1
Francisco Fernandes	(India)	1
Henrique Sereno	(Portugal)	1
Abdul of NEU	(OG)	1
Total		**31**
Indian goal scorers		16
Foreign goal scorers		14
Own goal		1

Note: Four of Chennaiyin FC's 31 goals were penalties. In all, Chennaiyin scored 13 headed goals, nine in set pieces and the remaining four in open play.

HE CAME, HE SAW & HE CONQUERED

He came, he saw and he conquered. Sorry for using a cliché, but it captures Englishman John Gregory's fairy tale maiden season in the Indian Super League which culminated in a title after an electrifying win over Bengaluru FC in the final on Saturday. Gregory hadn't imagined that his first visit to India would turn out to be so productive.

What is more, the title was the 63-year-old's first in a coaching career spanning three decades in England, Israel and Kazakhstan that had seen him at the helm of Aston Villa and QPR among others. Apart from three promotions from lower divisions in the 80s, he had not won a gong in his playing career as well. He is yet to realise the enormity of the achievement, he said during a press conference here on Sunday.

World Cup-winning Italian Marco Materazzi, who came to the ISL with a weightier CV, could win only one title in three seasons with Chennaiyin FC. Gregory, whose CV is considerably lighter, has gone the distance in his maiden season! No praise would be too high for the Englishman for fostering a family atmosphere in the team. "I have mellowed down a lot with age. I don't get angry as I used to do when I was young," he said. That Gregory settled down on his first XI pretty quickly helped Chennaiyin remain consistent throughout.

The famous British wit came to the fore on many occasions, with the only quibble being his inability to stop talking in press conferences. While Materazzi was too arrogant, his successor was the polar opposite. We would take the second option any day. TNR



John Gregory



Former soccer star and Brazilian senator launches bid to become governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro

The eSports revolution

India's competitive video gaming fraternity hopes for a medal in the 2022 Asian Games

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR
CHENNAI, MARCH 18



"It's not a sport - it's a competition. Mostly, I'm interested in doing real sports," John Skipper, the then president of ESPN, had proclaimed in 2014 while commenting on Amazon's $1 billion deal to buy videogame streaming site, Twitch, only to watch his American-based television channel embrace the world of competitive gaming — eSports - — within a year after his statement. Such has been the growth of eSports across the world in recent years that the Olympic Council of Asia has even added videogaming as a medal sport for the 2022 Asian Games to be held in China. And as a prelude, eSports will feature as a demo event in the 2018 Games in Indonesia in a few months.

Armed with latest gadgets, the internet-streaming generation has changed the gaming industry dramatically in the last couple of years. While the US, China and South Korea are some of the significant players in the gaming market, India is not far behind thanks to the introduction of high-speed fibre optics connectivity and affordable mobile internet.

eSports has grown significantly in the country with an estimated figure of 120 million online gamers. Esports Federation of India (ESFI), the governing body in the country, has been actively facilitating events in various cities and the most significant progression was a broadcast deal with MTV to air a serialised show around the events in India.

Lokesh Suji, director of ESFI, says India will have 310million online gamers by 2021. "With the high-speed internet, increased penetration of smartphones and affordable gaming devices, eSports has become easily accessible right from your living room. You don't have to go to gaming cafes anymore," he added.

The biggest challenge eSports facing is the perception. Lokesh says the inclusion in the Asian Games programme is a huge step towards mainstream acceptance. "The Asiad boost will definitely help change it. It's just not gaming today, it's a sport. I think the taboo that had associated with gaming is gone; as a gamer you will not be called a 'Nerd' but an 'eSports athlete'," said Lokesh, who is also a board member of Asian Esports Federation.

India team were placed No.6 for Tekken 7 and our overall rank jumped to 20th in the Esports World Championship 2017 in Korea. The fraternity is hoping to see an Indian eSports athlete landing a medal in the 2022 Asian Games. "Our team's performance in IESF World Championship has boosted our confidence," said Lokesh.

Contrary to perceptions, scientific studies have proved that playing video games boosts memory, increases coordination and is good for cognitive health. "It sharpens your decision making It reduces stress and depression; even the doctors recommend playing games as a therapy for chronic illness like autism, depression, and Parkinson's," informed Lokesh.

eSports athletes have their own physical fitness programmes and are told to maintain a healthy lifestyle. "It's just that all of this happens behind the scenes. Some of the eSports pro-athletes have massive fan following and we want to create more role models," Lokesh added.

Playing video games is not encouraged by the parents as they don't see a career path for their children and merely look at it as a pastime. "Now, that will not be the case," said Lokesh. "There are schools and universities in US, Sweden, Malaysia, Korea and China who run eSports curriculums apart from providing scholarships. Famous clubs such as Manchester City, Philadelphia 76ers and Roma have their eSports team which are valued more than $100 million. The same trend is emerging in India," he said.

Lokesh also stressed the importance of creating job opportunities for eSports commentators, coaches, event managers, lawyers and even journalists. "There are organisations who own teams (Signify, Entity, RoG, Titans) and paying them monthly salaries ranging from ₹30,000-50,000. Commentators Ranjit Patel and Sudhen Wahengbam are making decent money. Gamers have not only started earning by playing professionally, but also by creating content and live streaming their games," Lokesh added.

Globally, pro-gamers are making anything between $1-2million in sponsorships. Last year's winning team for The International (World Championship for video game DOTA2) took home $10 million and the overall prize pool was $25 million. There are a lot of Indian-origin eSports athletes who are doing well. US-based Saahil Arora represents one of the best eSports teams in the world and has already made $3million.

eSports whose demography is predominately youth presents brands and advertisers a great platform to attract their target consumers. "Creation of an altogether new industry of eSports will lead to larger investments flowing in. Both endemic and non-endemic brands will start getting involved on a serious note. Esports is the best way to engage with the hard to reach millenials," explained Lokesh.

Increasing the participation of girls is another area eSports fraternity has been consciously working on. "We are trying to include separate category to encourage more participation from girls," Lokesh added.



"With the high-speed internet, increased penetration of smartphones and affordable gaming devices, eSports has become easily accessible right from your living room. You don't have to go to gaming cafes anymore.

— LOKESH SUJI
Director of Esports Federation of India

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tournaments are streamed online with live commentary.
- Most common video game genres: Real-time Strategy (RTS), Fighting, First-person Shooter (FPS), Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA).
- Some popular video games: Defense of the Ancients (DOTA2), League of Legends (LoL), CounterStrike, Call of Duty, FIFA, Hearthstone, Starcraft, Vainglory.

300m

The number of eSports fans in 152 countries that watch these competitions online through various streaming platforms like Twitch.tv, YouTube Gaming, Azubu, Mobcrush.

120m

Estimated number of online gamers in India. This population is expected to cross 300 million by 2021.

$10m

Last year's winning team for The International (World Championship for video game DOTA2) took home $10 million and the overall prize pool was $25 million.

$700m

Estimated market value of the international gaming industry.

Salah's 4-goal blitz fires Reds

London, March 18: Mohamed Salah's stunning debut season with Liverpool hit a new high as the Egypt winger's four-goal spree set a club record in a 5-0 demolition of Watford, while Crystal Palace boosted their bid for Premier League survival with a 2-0 victory at Huddersfield on Saturday.

ManU into FA Cup semis

Manchester United bounced back from being dumped out of the Champions League in midweek by reaching the FA Cup semi-finals despite another uninspired performance as goals from Romelu Lukaku and Nemanja Matic saw off Brighton 2-0 on Saturday.

RESULTS

Bournemouth *(Ibe 79, Stanislas 89)*	**2**
West Brom *(Rodriguez 49)*	**1**
Huddersfield	**0**
Crystal Palace *(Tomkins 23, Milivojevic 68-pen)*	**2**
Stoke *(Choupo-Moting 77)*	**1**
Everton *(Tosun 69, 84)*	**2**
Liverpool *(Salah 4, 43, 77, 85, Firmino 49)*	**5**
Watford	**0**

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Editor: **A.T.Jayanti**